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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Head Views Casablanca Summit

LD0211181794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Casablanca, 2 November—Arab League Secretary General Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said here today that peace in the Middle East would not progress unless Israel withdrew from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and the Palestinians people's legitimate rights were guaranteed.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA, 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say that the Arab League's view of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East is based on two points: the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy in connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the bolstering of the peace process on the basis of land for peace.

He said that peace in the region would not be bolstered unless the sought-after progress is achieved on all the peace negotiations tracks between Israel and Arab countries and unless Israel withdrew from the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and the rights of the Palestinian people are guaranteed.

He added that politics and economic cooperation are two faces of one coin and both of them need to be bolstered to give impetus to the peace process.

He remarked that the Middle East and North Africa occupy an important strategic geographical position on the map of the world and have huge humanitarian and material resources that the Casablanca World Economic Forum ought to explore and invest in a way that would achieve development for the peoples of the region.

Regarding the Arab boycott of Israel, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid praised the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] latest decision to lift the second and third aspects of the Arab boycott of Israel.

He said that this positive step worthy of respect stresses the GCC states' support for the peace process in the region and proves they are not on the margin of the events.

'Abd-al-Majid described the Casablanca World Economic Forum as "successful", having achieved its aim to bridge the points of view of the parties concerned with peace in the Middle East and allow them to explore new prospects.

Returns From Summit

NC0311054794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo this evening after participating in the economic conference of Middle Eastern and North African states, which concluded in Casablanca, Morocco, yesterday. In an arrival statement, he said that the timing of the conference was important in view of the current developments and circumstances through which the region is passing. He said that his participation was an attempt to acquaint himself with the debates. He noted that the meetings were useful, particularly the debates of the general and ad hoc committees.

'Abd-al-Majid said that he delivered a statement at the conference defining the Arab League's support of the peace process ever since the Madrid Conference. He stressed that peace must be total and comprehensive so that economic cooperation yields fruit in the next stage. He stressed the need for positive results on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to establish a total and comprehensive peace.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 28 Oct

NC0211145294

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 28 October edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Opposition Parties Send Letter to Clinton
2. Islamists Challenge Israel-Jordan Treaty
3. Students Gather To Protest Clinton's Visit
4. Torture, Arrest of Figures Noted
5. Human Rights Organization Issues Statement
6. Minister Confirms Destruction of Books
7. Mubarak's 13th Anniversary in Office Viewed
8. Opposition Parties Condemn Casablanca Summit
9. Plan To Eliminate Islamic Trend Noted
10. Writer Views Clinton's Visit, Saudi Opposition
11. Clinton Seeks Cooperation To Fight Hamas

OPPOSITION PARTIES SEND LETTER TO CLINTON

An approximately 800-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 7 notes that the heads of three Egyptian opposition parties, the Labor, Wafd, and Liberal parties have sent a letter to U.S. President Clinton via Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa outlining their views on current events.

ISLAMISTS CHALLENGE ISRAEL-JORDAN TREATY

Muna Yasin, in an approximately 2,000-word report on pages 1 and 7, views Jordanian, Palestinian, and Lebanese Islamists' opposition to the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on 26 October. The writer states that the upbeat note expressed by the Jordanian, Israeli, and U.S. leaders at the ceremony marking the signing of the treaty in Wadi al-'Araba was not shared by the demonstrators who roamed the Jordanian streets to voice their opposition to the treaty as well as to President Clinton's visit. In south Lebanon, she adds, the Islamic Resistance expressed its rejection of the treaty in its own way, by firing Katyushas at northern Israel, while Hizballah made it clear that the "best answer" to the treaty is to continue the "jihad." She adds: "Another sign of contradiction was seen a few hours earlier. While the U.S., Egyptian, and Palestinian presidents were meeting to discuss ways to curb the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, the majority of the Palestinian people went on general strike in the occupied territories and the self-rule areas to protest the U.S. role, which Hamas described as far from fair and impartial, and to reject the Jordanian-Israeli treaty."

STUDENTS GATHER TO PROTEST CLINTON'S VISIT

An approximately 100-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on page 1 notes that hundreds of students gathered on 26 October in front of the college faculty at Cairo University to protest U.S. President Clinton's visit to Cairo. Security men prevented them from demonstrating against the visit. The students shouted slogans against the U.S. President and issued a statement saying it is "high time U.S. policy abandoned the hypocrisy it exercises, something it exercises to the extent that the face of the U.S. delegate to the United Nations embodies hypocrisy in the world."

TORTURE, ARREST OF FIGURES NOTED

An unattributed 200-word report on pages 1 and 7 claims that suspects accused of belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood are being tortured at the State Security Intelligence headquarters in Jabir Bin-Hayyan Street in al-Jizah. In this connection al-Sayyid Muhammad Ibrahim al-Sufani, a doctor from Imbabah, was released on 22 October after spending five months in detention in connection with the Salsabil case. It involves a computer company suspected of being a Muslim Brotherhood affiliate. After his release he was taken to the State Security office in al-Jizah, where he was beaten and humiliated for four days. Two officers asked him to make written confessions to things he did not do, the report adds. Another citizen, a dentist, Ahmad Samir Ahmad, has been beaten and subjected to electric shocks for two weeks since being detained early this month. He was later taken to Mazra'at Turrah Prison.

An approximately 150-word report on page 7 by Ahmad Mahjub from al-Minya notes that Muhammad Kamal Rif'at, secretary of the Labor Party Committee in al-Mibya, was arrested on 21 October by State Security officers. He was reportedly held for two days by the police, who also arrested his two brothers. During his detention he was said to have been blindfolded and denied food for a long time. No reason was given for his arrest.

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION ISSUES STATEMENT

An approximately 800-word report is published on page 7 dealing with an Egyptian Human Rights Organization statement, the date of which is not given. The organization is cited as saying it regrets what it calls the continuing policy of torture and maltreatment applied in police stations, a policy that has become routine practice. The 28-page statement, Citizens Without Protection, is said to reveal that 44 cases of torture have been recorded in 28 police stations in nine governorates, including Cairo and al-Jizah. There are strong suspicions that seven of these cases of torture and maltreatment have resulted in death, the organization notes. The cases reviewed and documented are said to have occurred in the years following the release of the organization's report in November 1990. They are just a sample of hundreds of cases about which the organization has been informed but has been unable to document, the statement explains. The report adds: "This shows how widespread torture is in police stations and how deficient the legal system is in bringing it to a halt and pursuing those who apply it." The organization notes that it has sent 31 letters to the interior minister and police stations to investigate the reported violations but has received no answer. The organization urges the government to adopt serious and effective measures to end the spread of torture in police stations.

MINISTER CONFIRMS DESTRUCTION OF BOOKS

'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad, in an approximately 100-word report on page 7, writes that Education Minister Husayn Baha'-al-Din has confirmed a report published in the 25 October edition of AL-SHA'B that 12 million Islamic books and tapes in school libraries have been destroyed. Speaking to professors and students of the Commerce and Political Sciences College on 25 October, the minister noted that his ministry formed a committee to review textbooks and clear them of any extremist items, which he said included books by the al-Azhar imam, Shaykh al-Sha'rawi, Shaykh al-Ghazali, and other moderate Islamic preachers.

MUBARAK'S 13TH ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE VIEWED

Dr. al-Shafi'i Bashir, in an approximately 3,000-word article on page 2, views the continuing application of the emergency law in Egypt since 1981, the year president Mubarak took office. He notes that in the past 13 years, constitutional rights and public freedoms have been widely violated, as proved by numerous court rulings and human rights organization reports. He cites the head of the Prisons Administration as saying that the number of prisoners and detainees in 1993 reached 40,000, adding that the interior minister has stated that approximately 10,000 political detainees are now in prison. He notes that human rights organizations' reports are unanimous in saying that since 1981 thousands of torture cases have been recorded, something that was not the case under President al-Sadat's era between 1970 and 1981. He adds: "The barbarian and brutal torture of detainees has become a trademark of our regime since September 1981, thanks to the broad powers enjoyed by the police and the virtual immunity enjoyed by the torturers." He adds that over 200 policemen and citizens were killed in 1993 in violent exchanges, which he says are the result of the "deliberate misapplication" of the emergency law. Refuting the state's claims that the emergency law must be maintained to face terrorism, the writer expresses his belief that terrorism would not have existed in Egypt if the political, economic, and social conditions met with the approval of the vast majority of the people and if the ruling factions enjoyed the confidence and respect of this majority.

OPPOSITION PARTIES CONDEMN CASABLANCA SUMMIT

An approximately 400-word statement by Egyptian opposition parties denouncing the Casablanca summit held on 30 October is published on page 3.

PLAN TO ELIMINATE ISLAMIC TREND NOTED

In an approximately 900-word report on page 3 on the Casablanca summit, Salah Budaywi notes that "Egypt, the Zionist entity, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco have decided to establish a new organization for the Mediterranean countries of the Middle East." The new organization, to be temporarily named the Committee for Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, was announced in Budapest on the sidelines of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. It seeks to "eliminate the Islamic trend." The group member states, which met before the beginning of the Casablanca summit, believe that "religious extremism" poses a threat to development and stability in the region and share the need to confront the Islamic groups and "uproot them by every means and method," the writer adds. The secretary general of the CSCE has voiced full support for the new organization, which he described as the start of a new era in Middle East history. According to Budaywi, some Arab member states of the organization have asked for the support of the Zionist entity and some European states to persuade the United States, France, Britain, Germany, and Austria to extradite some Islamic group leaders for their role in leading and financing "armed terrorist operations" from abroad. The member states agreed to exchange information and expertise to face extremist activity, the writer adds, noting that Israel pledged to secure the financing of all projects agreed upon in this regard through the European aid agencies, which have expressed extraordinary enthusiasm for backing the newborn organization.

WRITER VIEWS CLINTON'S VISIT, SAUDI OPPOSITION

U.S. President Clinton's visit to the region, the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and its repercussions, the Casablanca summit, and the rising opposition in Saudi Arabia are viewed by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn in his approximately 4,000-word article on page 5. On Clinton's visit, Husayn notes that unlike President Nixon, who visited Egypt 20 years ago and moved around in a "convertible" car, President Clinton sneaked in late at night and was accorded what he calls an almost secret welcoming reception. This, Husayn contends, proves that he is not visiting the region from a position of victory, for "he is the first to know that all the agreements signed with his blessing and support to impose Israel's hegemony are fragile agreements rejected by peoples." Turning to the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, which he says forced Jordan to give up part of its territory and place its economy under the Israeli economy, Husayn suggests that the Egyptian regime seems to be "disturbed" by what is happening. But it has no right to be, he says, since it started the notion of secret negotiations and agreements with the Israelis behind the Arabs' backs. The Casablanca summit, like the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, he claims, is part of the U.S.-Israeli strategy to spread a "Zionist" economic and other presence in as many Arab and Islamic states as possible, particularly in Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas, where Israel, he adds, will use what he calls agents as a front to penetrate the Gulf and its markets. Turning to Saudi Arabia, Husayn reviews an article by THE ECONOMIST on the rising Islamic opposition in the country, increasing debts, and the issue of who will succeed King Fahd, which all constitute elements of pressure leading to revolution, as the magazine puts it. Husayn says that while he is not interested in predicting the results of this movement, he suggests that it is certain that the "conspiracy" to bring Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states into the web of military and economic arrangements for a greater Israel will not be easy following these developments. In a boxed report on the same page, Husayn publishes part of a statement by unnamed "reformers" in Saudi Arabia dated 20 September 1994. The statement demands the comprehensive application of Islamic shari'ah, full independence of the judiciary, respect for individual rights, preserving public funds, immediately suspending foreign borrowing, establishing a strong army, halting the persecution of ulema and preachers, and liquidating banks operating a usury system to establish Islamic banks.

Concluding his article, Husayn states that the confrontation of "enemy" schemes will continue to increase and burst the dreams of the "Zionists and their U.S. allies." He notes that his party will have to call for forming a national front under the banner of Islam to group all the political forces and other factions, youngsters, laborers, and patriotic businessmen to continue the boycott of the Israeli economy and goods. He adds: "We must stop or obstruct as much as possible the schemes of economic normalization until God wills it and brings to power those who can lead the Egyptian nation in a comprehensive and thought-out confrontation, thus assuming their traditional role of leading the Arabs and Muslims in repulsing the greedy invaders."

CLINTON SEEKS COOPERATION TO FIGHT HAMAS

An approximately 550-word report by Rabi' Shahin on page 1 and 7 views President Clinton's talks in Cairo on the need to fight Hamas.

Palestinian Affairs

Car Bomb Kills Islamic Jihad Figure in Gaza

NC0211171194 Paris AFP in English 1629 GMT 2 Nov 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Nov 2 (AFP)—A car bomb exploded Wednesday [2 November] on the autonomous Gaza Strip killing a senior figure of the Islamic Jihad organization, doctors said.

The device went off when Hani 'Abid, a leader of the fundamentalist group which opposes the peace process and rejects autonomy, got into his car in Khan Yunus town.

Some witnesses said it blew up as he opened the door, others as he fired the ignition.

Police said they had begun interviewing witnesses to the killing, which has not been claimed.

"This is a plot by (Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin," charged 'Adil Mahmud, an Islamic Jihad member.

"He (Rabin) has started a war against the intellectuals, not against the real militants. I am sure it's the Israeli intelligence that did it."

Rabin swore revenge after a Moslem suicide bomber blew up a Tel Aviv bus on October 19 killing himself and 22 others.

However the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas claimed responsibility for the atrocity.

'Abid, who teaches science at a technical college where his Peugeot was parked, was held by the Palestinian police for 17 days after fundamentalists murdered two Israeli soldiers in June.

He died in Khan Yunus' Nasir hospital from internal bleeding and trauma several hours after the blast.

'Abid, who also managed a weekly paper that started publication two weeks ago, leaves a widow and three children.

Victim Previously Detained by Police

TA0211173894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hani 'Abid, an Islamic Jihad activist in the Gaza Strip and manager of the Palestinian weekly AL-ISTIQLAL, was killed this evening in an explosion that occurred when he opened his car door in Khan Yunus. Palestinian sources say that the car was booby-trapped and further claim that Israel was responsible for the act.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Hani 'Abid had had a dispute with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Gaza Strip and that he was also experiencing family problems. 'Abid had been previously detained by the Palestinian police on suspicion of involvement in an attack against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers at the Erez checkpoint area.

Islamic Jihad Blames IDF, Mosad

TA0311055094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip blames the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Mosad for the assassination of activist Hani 'Abid, who was killed last night in Khan Yunus by an explosion when he opened the door of his car.

In a leaflet disseminated in the Gaza Strip, the Islamic Jihad threatens to extract a heavy price from Israel. It also makes the Palestinian Authority responsible for the safety of the inhabitants of the autonomy. Hani 'Abid managed the Palestinian weekly AL-ISTIQLAL.

Islamic Jihad Promises 'Reply'

JN0311064894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement has promised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that he will hear its reply soon to the killing of Fatah [as heard] 'Abid, one of the movement's leaders, in a car bomb in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, an Islamic Jihad official, said that the Israelis had been after 'Abid before the implementation of the self-rule, and that settlers and Israeli soldiers will be the movement's targets.

Further on Group's Threat To 'Retaliate'

MM0311113694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Gaza: Jihad Official Assassinated; Leader Accuses, Threatens Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the "Islamic Jihad Movement" in Palestine, has warned of the results of the assassination of a "Jihad" leader, namely Hani al-'Abid, by the Israeli intelligence service (Mosad) in Gaza yesterday. He told AL-HAYAH that "blood will bring nothing but more blood. Jihad elements will retaliate."

He added that the assassination of al-'Abid (34), "who was abducted by Palestinian police forces a few months ago, is a very serious development. And there is no justification for the police forces to protect the Jews" in Gaza.

Al-Shaqaqi pointed out that al-'Abid was killed in a booby-trapped car yesterday evening after leaving the offices of the AL-ISTIQLAL newspaper in al-Wahdah Street in Gaza.

'Arafat To Run for Autonomy Council Presidency

TA0311115094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will not appoint himself president of the autonomy council, but instead will run for the office. According to the recently completed draft law on the upcoming elections in the West Bank and Gaza, the president and members of the council will be directly elected. The head of the Palestinian election committee, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, told Yoni Ben-Menahem that this was 'Arafat's recommendation:

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] The instructions of President 'Arafat to the commission of the elections that he wants the president of the council to be elected directly by the Palestinian people in direct elections, in open elections, at one national constituency for the elections of the president of the council.

[Ben-Menahem] Then 'Arafat is going to nominate himself to the presidency of the council?

['Urayqat] I think he will. [end recording]

'Urayqat expected several other people to contend for the office. According to the draft law, anyone over 35 years old whose name appears on the list of candidates can nominate himself as president. Members of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and police forces can only do so if they resign from their posts 30 days beforehand. All Palestinians over the age of 18 will be able to vote, including those who belong to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, 'Urayqat said. The 70-page document is to be submitted to the PA for approval, as well as to the Israeli negotiators in Cairo.

'Arafat's Aide Condemns Knesset Body Visit

JN0211181694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, today condemned the visit of the Knesset's internal affairs committee to the holy al-Aqsa Mosque and the statements of the committee's chairman, especially because they follow U.S. President Bill Clinton's abstention from visiting the holy places in order not to give legitimacy to occupation.

He added that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Palestinian territories according to international legitimacy resolutions which rejected the Israeli Government's decision to make Jerusalem a capital of Israel. He noted that these international resolutions also rejected dealing with Jerusalem on that basis and condemned all Israeli practices aimed at changing the features of the holy city.

Al-Tibi Considering Forming United Arab List

TA0211124894 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi is apparently considering forming a united Arab list to run in the next Knesset elections.

Al-Tibi, an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, is reportedly under increasing pressure to establish and head such a list.

A recent survey conducted by Al-Midan, a subsidiary of the Tel Aviv-based Modi'in Ezrahi Institute, headed by Dr. Rakhel Yisre'eli, revealed that if al-Tibi headed his own list, 26.5 percent of those polled would vote for him personally.

The poll, conducted last month among over 450 Israeli Arab voters representing a cross section of the community, found that 27.6 percent were undecided on the same question.

Just over 15 percent said they were not sufficiently acquainted with al-Tibi, while 30.7 percent said they would not vote for him.

Al-Tibi's supporters said yesterday that the results of the poll are very encouraging, especially since al-Tibi has not made any public preparations towards establishing a new party.

They noted that 26.5 percent of Arab votes would be the equivalent of three Knesset seats.

Leaders of the fundamentalist Israeli Arab Islamic Movement recently told THE JERUSALEM POST that they view al-Tibi as a serious candidate to head a united Arab list.

Asked about the results of the survey and the reports he would establish a new party, al-Tibi said that he had not yet made a final decision about running.

"Nevertheless, I will do my utmost to unite political forces in the Arab community as much as possible, so as to increase Arab representation in the Knesset and activate the role of Arab MK's [Knesset members] to increase the influence of the Arab sector on the decision-making process," he said.

PA Official on Gaza 'Siege,' Election

NC0311090294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, minister of finance with the Palestinian

Authority, PA, in Gaza, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Husayn] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Nashashibi] Good morning.

[Husayn] What is the latest news concerning Israel's siege of Gaza?

[Al-Nashashibi] This oppressive siege is illegal and unjustified; it must be lift immediately. But, regrettably, despite all the appeals by various countries, Israel began to implement only a gradual lifting of the oppressive siege yesterday, allowing only 4,000 laborers out of 25,000 to cross into Israel from Gaza and 4,000 out of 35,000 to cross from the West Bank. This means that the siege, in essence, is still being imposed on Gaza. Even the movement of individuals between the West Bank and Gaza and between Jericho and Gaza is being restricted. This is an unacceptable measure. We are seriously considering that a repeat of such a measure must be met by a similar measure by us: A border cannot be closed on one side only. Israeli goods cannot continue to flow onto the West Bank and Gaza when the border is closed to our laborers and products.

[Husayn] Israel says that some individuals, which it brands as terrorists, infiltrate Israel from Gaza and Jericho. What is your response?

[Al-Nashashibi] This is not true. This claim is untrue and inaccurate. The recent incidents did not originate here; no one infiltrated from here. We want to tell Israel that it was here and failed to prevent resistance against occupation. Resistance of occupation, irrespective of its methods—and we may differ on defining the ways in which occupation can be resisted—is a legitimate act acknowledged by the UN Charter and resolutions. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] The participation of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the elections in the West Bank and Gaza was one of the problems in your negotiations with the Israelis. What is new in this regard?

[Al-Nashashibi] Nothing. But we insist on the right of Hamas and any other group to participate in the elections. Otherwise, the elections will not be representative of all sectors and groups of our people. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] Amid a host of obstacles and challenges the Palestinian Authority is facing, the issue of development in the self-rule areas has not yet been resolved. How do you view assistance by the donor states? Why has the aid not been extended yet? And when will the donor states meet to provide this aid?

[Al-Nashashibi] It is really a cause for regret that the other side, the World Bank, which is entrusted to manage the grants and aid on behalf of the donor states, has failed to offer an excuse or a justification for delaying the implementation of projects to reconstruct the infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza. This is a source of surprise and astonishment. Whenever we ask, the answer is: Soon, at the next meeting, or after a delayed meeting. We insist on starting these projects immediately. Time is passing and the year has almost ended without our implementing any project, apart from the project to beautify Gaza. The implementation of these projects is now a very pressing need, especially as the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction has taken all the necessary measures to assure the donor states on the way the money will be spent, in terms of clarity, accountability, and naming the consultative companies that will supervise the management of projects.

[Husayn] Thank you.

[Al-Nashashibi] You are welcome.

Security Chief on Self-Rule Conditions, Hamas

JN0211210394 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Oct 94 p 19

[Report on an interview with Jibril al-Rujub, commander of the preventive security body in the Palestinian Authority, by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, preventive security chief in the Palestinian Authority in the self-rule area has said the occupied Arab territories are in a seething state of severe tension. He said the occupied territories could turn into a big prison due to the violence exchanged between Israeli military authorities and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] following the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier and the bombing of an Israeli bus near Tel Aviv. In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD, he said that the two sides, Hamas and the Israeli authorities, are fully prepared for a new confrontation after the Israeli Government announced that it will deal a strong blow to Hamas.

He added that he rejects the operation, which is said to be planned by Minister of Police Moshe Shahal and Israeli military leaders. He said: "We believe any operations by the two sides will have negative and bad consequences on the situation in the occupied Arab territories."

Al-Rujub held the Israeli Government alone responsible for the violent actions by Hamas and other Palestinian groups and factions, noting that Israel is the party that started the violence and assassinations and that it is holding thousands of Palestinians in its prisons and refuses to release them, despite the agreements reached on prisoners through the liaison committee between the two sides, which was formed in accordance with Declaration of Principles signed in Cairo.

The chief of the Palestinian preventive security organ said there are no secret agreements between the Palestinian Authority and Rabin's government to check the activities of Hamas or other Palestinian organizations that oppose the agreement. He said: The Palestinian Authority will not allow the Israeli authorities to enter or come close to the self-rule area on the pretext of chasing Hamas members, because this is the responsibility of the Palestinian Authority. He added that anything contrary to that will be in violation of Gaza-Jericho agreement and will have devastating consequences on the course of peace. He noted that security authorities in the self-rule areas cannot arrest any Hamas member without having hard evidence.

Al-Rujub called on the Israeli authorities to quickly release prisoners, including Hamas members, led by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the Hamas leader who is currently held in an Israeli prison. He said that this could reduce the possibility of tragic incidents in the near future, provided Israel abstains from dealing an unexpected blow to Hamas in order to put an end to confrontations between Hamas and the Israeli authorities. He said: If Israel dealt a blow against Hamas or other factions in retaliation for the bus bombing operation near Tel Aviv, Israel alone should be held responsible for the possible adverse consequences of such actions.

Al-Rujub called on Israel to stop any future violent actions, especially after some Hamas figures announced their readiness for a truce with the Israeli authorities, provided that Israel responds to their demands, most importantly the release of their leadership's prisoners.

Al-Rujub cautioned against Israel's persistence in the policy of collective punishment to which it resorts every now and then, noting that the patience of the Palestinian people has a limit. He said that the Palestinian people had earlier rejected the policy of humiliation and starvation during the days of occupation and that the history of this people is full of lessons for those Israelis who wish to learn. He said: Our major fear is that the Israeli policy could have the opposite consequences and that nobody would be able to control the situation which might explode in the self-rule area and the rest of the West Bank cities due to the imposition of an Israeli siege, given that this issue affects the economy and daily life of the Palestinian people.

Al-Rujub also said in his interview with AL-ITTIHAD that the Palestinians are now preoccupied with the issue of the complete closure of the Gaza Strip, which economically and politically threatens the peace process, especially since this closure happens very frequently. He added that the PLO has proved to be innocent regarding all the Israeli charges. It was proved that the PLO had nothing to do with the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier and with the bombing of the Israeli bus, he said, adding: Therefore, under no circumstance can we tolerate the Israeli violation of the agreement and the full siege it imposes on us.

Al-Rujub stated that the Palestinian Authority received fairly confirmed information from inside Israel that the Israeli Mosad has recently prepared a plan to assassinate Hamas leaders inside and outside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with the aim of teaching Hamas a lesson, as the Israeli leaders say, in retaliation for the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem operations. He said: For our part, we condemned these operations planned by Israel and told the Israeli authorities of their extreme seriousness, because they would generate much violence in the region and because Hamas and its leadership will not condone such crimes. Israel should be wiser in dealing with these matters, because we do not want bloodbaths, particularly in the occupied territories.

Al-Rujub denied reports to the effect that there are differences between him and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat over the security arrangements currently applied in the self-rule area. He said: Security arrangements and concepts are unified and everybody, people and leadership, is committed to them, especially since these concepts were set forth and taken care of by President 'Arafat, who heads the Authority. Therefore, I believe that these concepts should be implemented.

Al-Rujub wondered: How could I have differences with 'Arafat while everybody says that I am more 'Arafatist than 'Arafat himself?

He said all that is said about differences is mere rumors released by Israelis and the Jordanian authorities with the aim of provoking trouble. These attempts, however, did not succeed and their schemes failed, he noted. He said: Evaluation of security performance in the self-rule area is left to the Palestinian people. They must judge it by themselves and choose the appropriate experience in line with the new conditions they face now.

Al-Rujub rejected accusations leveled at the preventive security organ by Hamas, and the leaderships of the anti-agreement Palestinian organizations and factions, that the members of these organizations were detained without clear evidence. He said: These are unfair accusations. The preventive security never committed any violations against anti-agreement organizations and orders were not issued to arrest scores of them, as was rumored. He added: The organs of the Palestinian Authority will never commit any violations against the Palestinian brethren, because we are not an occupation authority. If there are any cases to the contrary, they can be presented, and we are ready to investigate if it is proved that any member of the preventive security was involved in illegally torturing or arresting any Palestinian." [passage omitted]

Hamas Official Views Attacks, 'Arafat's Policy

NC0311103594 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 31 Oct 94 pp 35-37

[Interview with Mustafa al-Liddawi, Hamas representative in Lebanon, by Zaynab Farran; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Farran] Israel and the United States have declared war on "Hamas" [Islamic Resistance Movement] to liquidate its leaders inside and outside Palestine, to destroy its infrastructure, and to cut off its finance sources. How will you face this war?

[Al-Liddawi] [passage omitted] There is nothing new in the Israeli threats. What is new is what we are seeing from the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. They have not remained silent over the demolition of houses, assassinations, and detentions, but have stressed in their latest statements that they will blow up a building for every one demolished by Israel and will pursue the Israelis in the same way the Israelis are pursuing the Hamas strugglers.

As for Israel's threats that its security bodies intend to liquidate the movement's leaders abroad, we believe that, as Palestinians, we are exercising our legitimate right to struggle over our land, Palestine, against the usurpers of our rights and territories. We are exercising every form of legitimate struggle to achieve our national goals and expel the occupiers from our territories. This is a legitimate right sanctioned by every international norm and charter.

During our struggle, we have respected and continue to respect the international principle that no action concerning struggle be exercised beyond the border of Palestinian territory. We will continue to respect this principle if Israel abides by it. But the moment the Israelis move the battle abroad then they will be accepting the expansion of the arena of struggle. They will only be increasing the number of the movement's soldiers who are hostile to the Israeli entity, because we will be unable to rein in our Arab and Muslim supporters abroad if they decide to exact revenge and not remain silent over any blood shed outside the homeland. Hence the Israelis must bear responsibility for their decision if they do carry it out. They will become a target everywhere for every Arab and Muslim. [passage omitted]

[Farran] It is said that there are conflicting views within the movement regarding the killing of civilians. This was confirmed by the initiative of Shaykh Jamal Salim, one of the movement's political officials in Nabulus, when he declared his support for a cease-fire between Israel and the al-Qassam Brigades through a third party so that civilians would not be the victims of the attacks. He is thus calling for negotiations with the Israelis. What do you say to this?

[Al-Liddawi] The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades have promised 'Arafat that he will be handed Gaza, Jericho, Jerusalem, and the West Bank free in return for letting the brigades continue their armed operations against the [Israeli] entity only. The al-Qassam Brigades have repeatedly issued statements stressing that they are ready to stop attacks on civilian Israeli targets on condition that the Israelis withdraw from Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. This is what we are seeking. We want to liberate parts of the homeland but without negotiation, capitulation, or recognition of the other side's legitimacy.

These statements might take different forms but they all have one clear meaning, which stresses that we are seeking to liberate our territories through arms only. As for civilian killings and the argument surrounding them, we are surprised at the commotion being raised concerning the killing of Israeli civilians. Where was that commotion and the people behind it and where was their humanity when they kept silent and even encouraged and backed Israel's aggressive acts and its usurping of the land of Palestine and the rights of its people? Where did they stand when Palestinian civilians—old men, babies, and women—were being killed round the clock? [passage omitted]

[Farran] It is being said that you will shift to full underground activity in the self-rule areas, particularly after it became clear that there is cooperation and coordination between the head of the self-rule authority and the Israeli agencies to chase and pursue your leaders, cadres, and activities.

[Al-Liddawi] As a movement, our military movements have remained in full secrecy under the Palestine Authority. They can only be underground. If we want our action to succeed we must make sure that there is full secrecy, because we are certain of the close cooperation between 'Arafat and the Israeli security forces. This is what we felt recently about the information 'Arafat provided to the Israelis on the whereabouts of the kidnapped soldier. Clinton himself confirmed that when he said: " 'Arafat was proceeding along the right course, because he provided sufficient information to reveal his whereabouts."

This certainty prompts us to deal with 'Arafat as a security hazard to the nature of the military and security actions of the movement. The political and mass action will retain its public nature. It is growing and taking root in the Palestinian arena, particularly after 'Arafat's arbitrary measures against the movement, measures that pleased the Zionist enemy.

[Farran] Despite what 'Arafat has done to your strugglers, you exercise restraint and commit yourself not to engage in infighting. You even demand that 'Arafat protect your leading cadres from Israel and appeal to him to choose between Israel and Islam. Do you still wager on the possibility of detaching him from the Israeli stance?

[Al-Liddawi] We maintain the position we derived from the long, bitter Palestinian experience in neighboring states, Jordan, and Palestine. We are certain that we will emerge as losers from any confrontation or infighting, not only as a movement but as a people and a cause. 'Arafat, who supervised the shedding of our people's blood in Lebanon and Jordan, will not change his ways in Gaza and Jericho. He will strive to find new ways to exercise more control and influence by fabricating internal problems with Hamas and others.

The movement will not give 'Arafat this opportunity. It will do its utmost to avoid this battle as much as possible. But if things get out of hand and 'Arafat plays his Lahdist (reference to Antoine Lahd, the Israeli agent in south Lebanon) [paper's note] role in all impudence and continues to oblige the Israelis, we will find no alternative, but to confront him and the Israelis together.

If 'Arafat continues to carry out the Israeli orders by arresting Hamas cadres, tightening the noose around the movement, and accordingly turning into a whip against a helpless people, the movement might have to go against him the hard way. [passage omitted]

Iran Said Training Hamas Members on Operations

JN0211165594 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Oct 94 pp 12, 13

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minutes after the blasting of Israeli bus No. 5 on Dizengoff street in the most prestigious and crowded commercial district of Tel Aviv on Wednesday morning, 19 October, in the largest fedayeen operation ever against Israel, in which 22 people were killed, Yigal Brisler [name as transliterated], adviser of Yitzhaq Rabin for terrorist affairs, issued an urgent order to all bus drivers in Israel to immediately stop and search their buses to make sure they did not contain any bombs or explosives.

In fact, senior Israeli intelligence officers were expecting large-scale military operations outside the self-rule areas, particularly in Israeli-controlled areas between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. But it was difficult for the Israeli intelligence and security organs to take precautionary measures because they did not know when or by whom these operations would be carried out. The information several Western intelligence organs, including the CIA, released before the abduction of the Israeli soldier, Nahshon Wachman, indicated the possibility of such operations against Israeli and Jewish embassies and interests in Europe. The Western intelligence organs also believed that Iran was trying to undermine the peace process by further supporting international terrorism, over which it has total control, and that it prepared plans with extremist Palestinian groups and fundamentalist organizations to carry out bombing operations like the ones that occurred in Buenos Aires and London. [passage omitted]

Moreover, Palestinian, Arab, and Western security organs were surprised by Tehran embracing Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], although the Palestinian jihad movement [name as published] was the one that most coordinated with the Iranian regime. These organs discovered some time ago that Hamas' representative in Tehran, Hamdan, began to attract special interest and entered into a series of agreements with Iranian security leaders—agreements that went beyond sheer financing to coordinating plans to carry out operations and train special groups from Hamas in special camps of the Revolution Guards north of the Iranian capital, on the way to Qom. [passage omitted]

In fact, this method bears the fingerprints of the German network, to which AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI had referred in its edition No. 918 under the headline: "The Most Dangerous International Terrorist Organization Serves Iran."

European security circles assert that the new terrorist experts, who were trained by the East German intelligence, the Stasi, and the Bulgarian intelligence organs to supervise these training camps, and who later moved to Iran, attracted new and extensively trained elements from Hamas. These elements were trained and returned to the occupied territories via an Arab country as experts on suicide and car bombing operations in order to carry out operations inside Israel in line with the goals of Hamas and Iran. [passage omitted]

Fatah Issues Statement on Balfour Declaration

JN0211181394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestine National Liberation movement, Fatah, issued a statement in Gaza today on the 77th anniversary of the infamous Balfour Declaration, according to which Britain gave the Jews a privilege to create a national homeland in Palestine.

The statement said that the British occupation of Palestine was directly responsible for the tragedy and displacement of the Palestinian people, scattering them all over the world. It noted that the breakout of the Palestinian revolution renewed the hopes of every Palestinian. The PLO became the political identity of Palestinians all over the world, the statement said.

The statement added that the Palestinian people are now engaged in the process of building the homeland and the state, so they established the Palestinian Authority on territory liberated through their struggle, sacrifices, and unfaltering steadfastness.

The Fatah movement statement said Britain should shoulder the responsibility of extending and raising funds for the Palestinian people, in the same way that Germany assisted the Jews.

It called on the world countries, especially the United States and the donor nations, to fulfill the minimum level of their obligations to enable the Palestinian National Authority to carry out its tasks of building the homeland.

Dissident Fatah Group Criticizes Casablanca Summit

JN0211202294 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Committee of the [dissident] Palestine National Liberation Movement (Fatah) has issued a political statement on the Casablanca economic summit, saying: The Casablanca summit, which was the first expanded regional economic conference to have brought together several Arab states and the Zionist enemy, has been held under the auspices of the United States and Western nations. The convocation of this summit, which is a significant political achievement for the Zionist entity, is detrimental to the future of our nation, its resources, the aspirations of Arab generations, and their rights to their territory and resources.

The statement added: On the fringes of this conference, the Zionist entity has managed to make additional political and diplomatic gains, particularly since several Arab states have announced that they are planning to establish diplomatic ties with the Zionist enemy. Moreover, this conference is a prelude to the revocation of the first, secondary, and tertiary aspects of the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity. Likewise, the Zionist entity has used this summit's rostrum to reiterate before Arab officials and their stooge 'Arafat that it will hold on to the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, foremost among which is Jerusalem.

The statement went on to say: If anything, this indicates that the Arab sides that attended this summit have agreed to serve as docile tools to carry out an anti-Arab plan. These sides have agreed to serve as bridgeheads over which the Zionists will move towards the capitals of the region and their resources. They have unhesitatingly agreed to serve as tools to liquidate the Palestine question as well as the other issues related to the Arab-Zionist conflict at the behest of their U.S. masters.

Concluding its political statement, the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement urged the Arab nation's masses to close their ranks and counter the plan of normalization and capitulation, which is meant to impose U.S. hegemony on the region.

Paper Terms Casablanca Conference 'Disappointing'

TA0211175694 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 2 Nov 94 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "The Casablanca Conference—Only a Festival?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] If the Casablanca conference is the largest economic and political gathering that the region has witnessed and convened against the background of embracing political solutions for the region's problems, the hope is that this conference will not be used merely as a show and a political festival for the leaders who attended it to gain popularity in their countries. If recent talk has centered on the need to implement a Marshall Plan in the region similar to the post-World War II plan in Europe, the conference in this context was disappointing, because the rich countries are not interested in aiding the economy and development of the region. Despite the fact that the region's countries, represented by their delegations, presented papers, studies, and research works for large-scale regional development, their appeals were not heeded by the other side, namely, the donor countries.

The issuance of statements, recommendations, and promises and then the return of every delegation to its country after thanking Morocco for its generosity and hospitality will not suffice if these are not followed by practical and real steps. The region is in dire need of economic revival and reconstruction in the wake of the destruction of the infrastructure of many of the region's countries by wars. One cannot expect peace, security, and stability to be established in the region unless the poverty, hunger, and destitution of its peoples are eliminated.

This is one of the most important structures on which the foundations of peace will be laid. If Western countries, foremost of all the United States, are really interested in promoting the peace process and establishing security in the region, they must support structural and productive projects so as to create job opportunities and instill the region's masses with the hope that a better future is awaiting them on the road to peace and that they are going to reap the fruits of peace. Otherwise, the cycles of violence and extremism will increase and the chances for the success of the peace process will fade.

People's Party Urges Immediate Talks on Settlement

TA3110114994 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 27 Oct-2 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem—The Central Committee of the Palestinian People's Party has called on the Palestinian Authority to reject "the security" role that the Israeli authorities want to assign to it. The committee warned of the repercussions involved in accepting such a role, foremost of which is the danger of civil war.

This came in a statement issued by the party's Central Committee at a meeting that it held last week. The Central Committee came to the conclusion that negotiating in stages will not bring security or peace to anyone, but rather holds new perils. Doing so will, above all, inflict serious harm on the Palestinian people's national interests and reduce the extent to which the resolutions on international legitimacy are used as the point of reference in the negotiating process. The Central Committee warned of the Israeli Government's attempts to avoid implementing those resolutions in "stages" and warned of its intention to limit the entire process to one stage only.

The Central Committee called for reassessing the negotiating process and modifying it by negotiating on the basis of the resolutions regarding international legitimacy and advocated working out a final settlement without delay.

Circular Urges Continued National Struggle

JN2910120294 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 24 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO Political Department has underlined the need to continue the national struggle to end the Israeli occupation and free the Palestinian economy from economic subservience to Israel.

A circular issued by the Political Department, headed by PLO Executive Committee Member Faruq Qaddumi, stressed the need to remain distant from normalizing relations with Israel before full withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab territory. The circular, which contradicts the official policy of the self-rule authority, stresses the need to resist the individualistic decisions that are not issued by the competent decisionmaking bodies and institutions. The circular also calls for maintaining the process of organization among the rank-and-file, strengthening organizational links, and refraining from any action which does not involve the masses of the people.

The circular also stresses the need to preserve Fatah Movement as the backbone of the national movement and protect the PLO against the attempts to terminate its role and representation of the Palestinian people.

Algeria

Madani, Belhadj Reportedly Moved to Secret Location

LD0211161094 Paris LCI Television in French 1500 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The leaders of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] have been put in solitary confinement following the failure of dialogue and after the attack in which five children were killed. Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj have been transferred to a new residence which is being kept secret, according to a report published in Algiers this morning by the [French language] paper LIBERTE.

Spokesman: Contact With Leaders Lost

NC0311120394 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Algiers, Nov 3 (AFP)—The outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) said Thursday [3 November] it had lost all contact with its leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj after a press report that they had been moved to a "secret location."

Nourredine Chigara, an FIS spokesman, told AFP that he had been unable to contact Madani and Belhadj at the Djenane el Mufti state residence in central Algiers where they had been held since September 13, following their release from a military prison.

An Algiers daily said Wednesday said that Madani and Belhadj had been transferred to another detention centre whose location was being "kept secret."

Chigara, who was released from prison at the same time as the two FIS leaders, said he had called to see them at the Djenane centre on Monday, "but the guards told me it was impossible."

He added: "I don't know if they are still there or if they have been transferred somewhere else. ... Visits have been suspended for several days, as well as telephone calls." [passage omitted]

Two FIS leaders signing themselves Djeddi and Boukhamkham, in a statement sent to AFP Paris Thursday, blamed recent deaths on security forces. The statement said that 263 people were killed in the days leading up to the anniversary celebrations on November 1. They said 120 people were killed on a single day in the same administrative area.

There has been no official confirmation or denial of the security operations, and newspaper reports have mentioned fewer deaths. [passage omitted]

Ait-Ahmed Warns 'Civil War Approaching'

MM0211155594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Ait-Ahmed: Civil War Approaching"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Hocine Ait-Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, has held the regime in Algeria responsible for what has happened in the country since the suspension of the electoral course. He warned that civil war is approaching in Algeria. He attacked the armed Islamic groups, describing their members as "terrorists." He accused Sudan, Iran, and Afghanistan of supporting them.

Ait-Ahmed held a seminar on Monday evening in the Schools of Oriental and African Studies, London University. It was attended by a number of academics and people interested in Algerian affairs. At the beginning of his speech he noted that Algeria is currently experiencing "its most difficult time" and that scores of people are being killed with no discrimination between women, children, and the elderly. He said that "hardliners in the military establishment continue to insist on resolving the crisis through an all-out confrontation." He considered this insistence evidence of the failure and futility of the dialogue. He stressed that the parties have not actually engaged in a serious dialogue. "We have been asked to enter the institutions of the transitional phase, while the Army continues to refuse to embark on measures contributing to a solution. And the terrorist Islamists are doing the same."

He said that "civil war is approaching." "And my country is threatened with instability. However, I believe that it is not too late for resolving the crisis peacefully. Why? Because the majority of the people reject violence from any quarter." He noted that this rejection has been demonstrated in the popular demonstrations organized over the past two years and in recent demonstrations in the tribal areas.

He demanded that "pressures be exerted" on the regime to force it to engage in a serious dialogue, and that any aid provided to the regime be linked to a practical program to resolve the crisis. He also demanded that pressure be exerted on and measures taken against the states helping armed Islamic action in Algeria.

Answering questions put to him by those participating in the seminar, Ait-Ahmed said that the measures he wants the authorities to take are summed up as follows:

— To hold a national conference in which the Army and the influential forces participate in order to bring about a suitable political solution.

— To release all political prisoners.

— To open the political and media field to all parties to enable them to express their views freely.

He stressed that there can be no other solution in Algeria except a political solution.

He said that the regime "showed irresponsibility" when it abolished the electoral course in January 1992. He pointed out that he told former Defense Minister General Khaled Nezzar after the cancellation of the elections that "what you did is wrong." He also said that he asked three Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders—namely Cheikhs Mohamed Said, Abdelkader Hachani, and Rabah Kebir—not urge the people to demonstrate, because that would offer the regime an excuse for intervention and would also lead to "a disastrous adventure—which happened, thus allowing the Army to intervene and to impose a state of siege."

Asked about his description of Algerian Islamists as terrorists, he pointed out that he does not believe that killing civilians "is a jihad action. In fact it contravenes Islam's principles. The violence must be halted. I hold the regime responsible for what we are experiencing now."

He noted that government security forces are fighting against groups, not the Algerian people. And that the authorities have done their utmost to incite citizens against terrorism. "But we said that there two types of terrorism: terrorism committed by the authorities and terrorism committed by the other party, and the two types must be halted."

He said that it cannot be said that Algeria is now experiencing a civil war, "but all possibilities are on the cards."

Asked about the "people's choice" and the claim that the FIS was the people's choice, he said that the people did indeed choose in the recent elections. "But this selection is not final, and the people have a different judgment every day. And I believe that violence has considerably influenced the people's opinion." He believes that the FIS' popularity has dropped after events in Algeria. However, he stressed the need to return to "the people's sovereignty and to allow them to express their opinion and make their own decision. And that the electoral law should be reexamined, since what happened in the past, namely voting on behalf of the dead, should not be repeated.... We must return to the elections."

Asked about the states which are believed to be supporting armed action in Algeria, he said that "Sudan is supporting armed (Islamic) action in Algeria, and so are Iran and Afghanistan."

Asked again about his description of Islamists as "terrorists" and reminded that French colonialism used to describe "the mujahidin" during the revolution as "terrorists," he said: "Severing necks is a barbaric action, whatever the ideological motive."

RCD Chief: FIS Has Shown Its True Face

LD0211175894 Paris Europe No. 1 Radio in French 0640 GMT 2 Nov 94

[Interview with Said Saadi, general secretary of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, RCD, of Algeria, by Franz-Olivier Giesbert—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Giesbert] Said Saadi, good morning.

[Saadi] Good morning.

[Giesbert] You arrived in Paris last night. There is something special about you. You are against everyone—against Muslim fundamentalists and against the Algerian authorities. You support democracy, but don't you feel that it is getting further out of reach every day?

[Saadi] First of all, if I am against the authorities and the fundamentalists, it may be because they are a bit the same, since one nurtures the other, one has given rise to the other. Now, when people say that democracy is getting further out of reach everyday—it has never been close at hand in Algeria, anyway; it depends on one's position. This is the high price we are paying, but I am convinced that in any case, we are building a democratic Algeria.

[Giesbert] How would you sum up things in Algeria over the last three years—three years of horror?

[Saadi] It is true that they were three years of horror.

[Giesbert] They say that 80 people die every day.

[Saadi] These are figures going around in Algiers and which have been admitted by some authorities, but horror is not inevitable. [passage omitted]

[Giesbert] Are you nostalgic for President Boudiaf, or would you rather welcome a military coup?

[Saadi] I don't think that the words civilian and military are relevant. In my country I have always thought that the word game is relevant. Let an Algerian—whether a civilian or a member of the military—say in which direction he would like to lead the country, and I shall respond to him. I believe that one's position is not as important as the proposals one makes. Within the institutions and within society, there are democrats, there are secularists [republicains]; and in the opposition, there are fascists and secularists.

[Giesbert] Let's talk about proposals. General Liamine Zeroual, Algerian head of state, has announced presidential elections will take place before the end of 1995. Do you think that Algeria is in such a position, with 80 people being killed every day, to hold elections?

[Saadi] It seems rather difficult to me. Now, one cannot say no to elections forever. When one is a democrat, one cannot derive one's legitimacy from anything but ballot boxes. Having said this, it is true that there are no electoral lists any longer, that town halls have been burned down, that the security of citizens is under threat every day, and yesterday's terrorist attack reminded Algerians of the horror we experience on a daily basis. I can't see how we can carry out an electoral campaign, how we can express ourselves, how we can move about, how we can make proposals to a public concerned for its survival.

[Giesbert] If there were elections today, don't you think that the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] will win again?

[Saadi] I am convinced that the FIS has lost a lot of ground.

[Giesbert] You think that it is losing ground?

[Saadi] It is definitely losing ground.

[Giesbert] What makes you say this?

[Saadi] Because we can see this. I live within society. The FIS has shown its true face. When we said before 1991 that Islamism does not have any other means to wield power but to exert violence, we were told that we assumed too much. After the first round, some things were said very clearly concerning their intentions. There were some people's courts: those who would not submit had to leave or be killed. Since then, some people have left and some people have been killed.

[Giesbert] Does this mean that the FIS is paying for the atrocities it has committed?

[Saadi] I am convinced that the FIS is paying for the atrocities it has committed, this is obvious. Fortunately, it is; otherwise, it would mean that Algerians are insensitive to the pain inflicted upon them. We can say that it is a blessing in disguise. Beyond all this, I think that it has been understood that the fundamentalist movement is efficient in a phase of protest, but that it cannot be a force for making proposals. It took a long time before Algerians realized this. Yet again, disqualifying the fundamentalists is not enough to mobilize the nation's resources, the democratic forces. This presupposes a particular climate, a degree of tranquillity and management of the state in accordance with the demands of the secular [republicain] running of institutions. We are far from that.

[Giesbert] What do you say to President Zeroual about the presidential elections: You are on? Let's go for it?

[Saadi] I say: you are on; and I say he will not win, he who has long been a member of the magic circle, even if he is now trying to pass himself off as a brand new man.

[Giesbert] He may not win, Said Saadi, but don't you think that the Algerian authorities, who have supposedly been doomed for a long time, have more reserves than people think? In other words, they are down, but not out.

[Saadi] They are down, but not out. It is always easy to hold on, in theory, to last, when one has $10 billion and an army that holds on as long as it can. In theory, it is not the aim of authorities to last. The authorities are there to offer prospects to a country, and nobody can see any prospects. Nevertheless, more than ever, the fact that President Zeroual wants to carry on regardless proves that the authorities are more isolated than ever.

[Giesbert] Yet the army is holding on. The army is not so corrupted by Muslim fundamentalists—or is it?

[Saadi] I cannot say what is happening at the grassroots level, but quite obviously, at the top level, I believe that most of the army command is not ready to go over to fundamentalism. Nevertheless, how long can an army impose itself on society? Again, one cannot live as a cancer forever and live off petrodollars.

[Giesbert] Would you predict an important future for the man in the news, the man who is on the way up: General Lamari?

[Saadi] I am not in the military myself. You would need to see what is happening inside the military institution which, like many others, is especially quiet. Now, I know that, as far as the dispute about the fundamentalist phenomenon is concerned—that officer has never been guilty of the least weakness, if I may put it this way. Yet again, it is not sufficient to say no to fundamentalists. It is only a prerequisite; we have to know where we want to go, and I do not at all know what Mr Lamari's intentions are since the army does not express its political ambitions publicly or through the mouths of its officers. For me, this is the most important thing.

[Giesbert] What is astonishing, Said Saadi, is that you live in Algeria, you conduct your fight in Algeria...

[Saadi, interrupting] It is not astonishing, it is the least one can do.

[Giesbert] You come here and tell us the opposite of what everyone believes: no, an Islamic republic is not in sight.

[Saadi] The Islamic republic is not in sight—for all that, if this was a possibility, it would have happened already. We have authorities who are hated, discredited, isolated, and yet these Islamists whom we criticize so much are not especially efficient. The fact is that power, which was formerly within their reach, is not in their hands yet, and I don't think it will ever be.

[Giesbert] Are you telling us that there is hope, that there is hope for democrats like you?

[Saadi] Fortunately, there is. People are fighting there, there is hope, I am convinced that it is thanks to these democrats that Algeria's institutions still exist, that the civil service still exists. It is thanks to these thousands, these millions even, of women and men who fight on a daily basis; we don't talk enough about them...

[Giesbert, interrupting] They take risks?

[Saadi] They take risks: they are in the streets, they are at work despite threats. They fight and hold dear...

[Giesbert, interrupting] They run newspapers?

[Saadi] They run newspapers, they fight, they are in all the institutions and make them run.

[Giesbert] Mr. Said Saadi, are you sure that you are well protected?

[Saadi] I try to be as well protected as I can, [words indistinct] a bomb attack on 29 June, but I think that these are risks that must be taken and that Algeria deserves this.

[Giesbert] Do you still live in Algiers?

[Saadi] I still live in Algiers.

[Giesbert] Thank you, good luck, have a nice day.

[Saadi] Goodbye.

[Giesbert] We need you.

[Saadi] Thank you.

'Terrorists' Hideouts Stormed; Military Chief Killed

LD0211203094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received the following statement by the security services: At the time the Algerian people was commemorating the 40th anniversary of the war of liberation, a terrorist group was preparing to carry out at least one spectacular criminal act for propaganda purposes in Algiers. This information enabled the location of this group which was active in the Telemly district [in Algiers] thanks to citizen's vigilance and statements.

The security forces carried out their operations in two stages in a bid to avoid jeopardizing citizens' lives. Thus, the security force carried out the first attack on the residence in which were terrorists; the operation culminated in the elimination of four terrorists, including a woman, and the recovery of weapons and a bomb.

The second terrorist group was inside another residence nearby a multistory building, the Lafayette. The initial information was that there was a bomb which was threatening the residents of the multistory building. The security forces thereupon evacuated the multistory building and began communication with the terrorists to surrender, which they accepted.

It became clear this morning that a woman was among the terrorists. Colonel Cherif Hadj Djelloul, the military chief of Algiers, went to talk to them without any weapons and alone in accordance to the criminals' commitment to surrender themselves to him. However, as soon as he was near them they cowardly murdered him.

Further on Algiers Assault

NC0211132894 Paris AFP in English 1255 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Nov 2 (AFP)—Seven people were killed Wednesday when security forces pressed home an assault against two armed Islamic extremist gangs here, witnesses said, as Algeria was in shock after a bomb blast killed five children.

An AFP correspondent saw the bullet-riddled bodies of victims lying near a 15-storey building in the Telemly Boulevard district in the centre of the capital.

The major operation involving large numbers of hooded "Ninja" special troops and police began on Tuesday, the day a bomb attack blamed on Muslim activists killed five children attending a ceremony in a cemetery in the west Algerian coastal town of Mostagenem.

Media reports said four armed fundamentalists, including their leader who was known as Flicha (the Arrow), were killed by the security forces on Tuesday after they started their hunt for the two gangs.

One of the groups was reported to be holed up with two girl hostages and to have explosives with which it was threatening to blow up the building if the security forces attacked.

Officials have given no details of the operation, which was apparently the biggest since one at the same period last year and was causing major traffic problems.

Armed Islamists have since early 1992 been waging a guerrilla war against the military-backed secular regime, at a cost of more than 10,000 lives, according to official figures.

Horrific television pictures of Tuesday's devastation in the cemetery, where the blast ripped through a contingent of Muslim Scouts, killing five of them and wounding 17 others, four seriously, have caused outrage among Algerians almost "accustomed" to the carnage.

The independent EL WATAN daily said the attack was apparently meant to slay the prefect, or local administrator, of the district around Mostaganem, 280 kilometres (170 miles) west of Algiers, and the local military and police chiefs and soldiers who were at the ceremony.

The attack, which came as the country commemorated the 40th anniversary of the start of the eight-year war of liberation against France, was the bloodiest since an explosion killed nine people and wounded 123 at the Algiers airport in August 1992.

The Algerian authorities said the attack was carried out by a "small group of unscrupulous individuals" whom they vowed to "annihilate," in clear reference to one of the country's armed fundamentalist gangs.

The bombing was denounced by an exiled spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which was outlawed in March 1992, two months after the military canceled the second round of general elections the fundamentalist movement was poised to win.

"We hold the regime's security services responsible for such an attack against innocent children," the Washington-based Anwar Haddam, leader of FIS representatives who had won parliamentary seats in the first round of the aborted poll, said.

"These people are monsters. They are attacking kids," one appalled Algiers resident said, reflecting the general feeling in the capital, where the government daily EL-MOUDJAHID spoke of the "Green Khmer", comparing the Islamists with the Khmer Rouge held responsible for genocide in Cambodia.

The blast came a day after President and Defence Minister Liamine Zeroual, in a broadcast address to the nation, accused FIS leaders of playing a double game in calling for talks but sponsoring violence in their bloody campaign for an Islamic state in secular Algeria.

Zeroual also announced that presidential elections will be held before the end of 1995, but FIS officials swiftly said this would not be possible and vowed to pursue the "armed struggle".

Seven Terrorists 'Liquidated' in Batna, Ain Defla

LD0211185794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said that the security forces were able to eliminate seven terrorists during Monday-Tuesday in Batna and Ain Defla. The security forces were able, the statement adds, to retrieve a semiautomatic rifle and four shotguns.

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo for Brief Visit

NC0211184494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this evening from Tunis on a visit of a few hours to brief President Husni Mubarak on the results of the Casablanca summit, his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and the difficulties facing the Palestinian National Authority [PA]. Before leaving Tunis, 'Arafat met with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and briefed him on the Palestinian situation on all levels and the difficulties facing the PA.

Meets Mubarak, Departs

NC0311090094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this morning after a visit of several hours during which he met President Husni Mubarak and informed him of the results of his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Casablanca.

The Palestinian president arrived in Cairo last night to inform President Mubarak of the difficulties the Palestinian Authority is facing.

Greek Defense Minister Arrives for 3-Day Visit

NC0211063694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Greek Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this evening for a three-day visit to Egypt.

During his stay, the Greek minister will hold talks with Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi on boosting bilateral relations in various military fields.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0311113594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Greek Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis at the Presidential Palace in al-Qubbah this morning.

The meeting was attended by Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, and Greek Ambassador in Cairo Dhimitrios Vidhouris.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Hold Telephone Conversation

NC0211173094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1704 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a telephone call from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

During the conversation, they exchanged viewpoints on a number of international and regional issues.

UAE's Shaykh Zayid Arrives in Cairo for Visit

NC0211143094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Abu Dhabi on an official two-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During his visit to Egypt, he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on the recent developments in the Middle East peace process and the results of U.S. President Bill Clinton's tour of countries in the region, in addition to a number of issues in the Arab arena.

The two presidents will also discuss bolstering bilateral relations in various fields and expanding the scope of economic cooperation between the two countries, in addition to a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Receiving Shaykh Zayid upon his arrival at Cairo Airport was President Husni Mubarak.

A large number of state and Armed Forces officials were also at the airport to meet Shaykh Zayid.

Meets Mubarak, Discusses Issues

NC0211163194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan held a round of talks dealing with several international, Arab, and regional issues. The two presidents also discussed the situation in the Gulf, progress in the peace process, and the relations between the two countries.

Israel's Request for Joint Chamber Rejected

NC0211191694 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Azim]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt has turned down Israel's request to establish a joint chamber of commerce. The Union of the Egyptian Chambers of Commerce and Businessmen's Associations have recommended against setting up a joint chamber of commerce with Israel.

Mubarak Meets Judicial Body, Discusses Democracy

NC0211164294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said in his meeting today with members of the State Council's judicial body that he will continue to support the democratic march and will give the people the opportunity to participate in decisionmaking and choosing their representatives in every sector of public work.

President Mubarak also clarified that resolutions issued recently in the form of laws fall in line with the recommendations of the National Dialogue Congress.

President Mubarak said he was concerned that arrangements regarding the election system should be in line with the Constitution and that the principle behind any choice must of necessity adhere to the Constitution.

During the meeting President Husni Mubarak said there is no truth in the rumor that a referendum will be held to determine whether elections should be held on a list or individual basis.

The president noted that the Egyptian economy is currently going through a progressive stage based on growth, increased production, and the expansion of ownership in the private and investment sectors in accordance with a gradual plan without tipping the balance, avoiding a slump or deterioration in the Egyptian economy.

The president said that attempts to cast doubts on the Egyptian economy's march do not affect the persistence or determination to continue the march in the interests of the people.

The president said that the Egyptian economy's policy is to give priority to the economic dimension and preserve the required balance between wages and prices. We try to avoid as much as we can those decisions that affect the Egyptian citizen, he said.

President Mubarak added during the meeting that economic development means the ability to continue the road toward a better future so that we can find our place in the international arena.

The president added that extremism and terrorism will never realize their goals in Egypt. He pointed to the maturity, character, and ability of the Egyptian people to understand correct values and principles. The Egyptian people also reject all images of violence.

The president said that despite the many violations and excesses in the country, he will take no steps that violate the law or Constitution. I hope these people will wake up one day and realize, away from their malicious whims, the rights of the Egyptian people to security, stability, work, and earning a decent and honest living, he stressed.

The president went on: There will be no clemency for those who violate legitimacy and encroach on the values and security of the citizens. President Mubarak stressed the role of social institutions, topped by the educated people, in stabilizing the society and forming the conscience of the Egyptian man regarding values and correct understanding. The role of the Egyptian man should be positive and active in monitoring cheating in trade and confronting the sale of products that do not fit the specifications, as well as in setting up cooperatives to protect the consumer in every district. These cooperatives will have powers equal, even greater, than the powers of the law.

The president said: We do not endorse corruption, whoever commits it. We do not cover up for a corrupt person, whatever his position. The president clarified that investigations into the background of most of those who slipped and fell into the dens of extremism and terrorism have revealed that they are mercenaries from abroad. Their problem is not unemployment. He said that all the economic plans are pouring their efforts into providing job opportunities for the youths. The president said that a state that lacks a competent economic base will find no place on the world's economic map.

The president said that through Arab cooperation, Egypt is trying to establish an economic base that can deal with situations and regional developments. He added that Egypt participated in the Casablanca summit in its capacity as a leading Arab nation. It is unacceptable under any circumstances for Egypt to disappear from the arena or fail to participate in planning. He pointed out that Egypt's economic delegation submitted economic working papers and a specific and clear political view.

On Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the president said that Egypt, as a big country, practices restraint and considers the interests of the Sudanese people in addition to handling this issue in a way that stems from true values and an understanding of the facts, ties, and history between the two people.

President Husni Mubarak this morning inaugurated the State Council's new headquarters in al-Jizah, including the courts, which incorporate 12 courtrooms. The building also contains a conference hall, a computer hall, an information hall, and a reception hall.

Columnist Views Differences Over Jordan's Peace

NC0111041994 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Oct 94 p 8

["Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Who Should Drink the Sea?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn has a right to congratulate himself and the Jordanian people on the peace he signed with Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton. By signing this peace agreement, he guaranteed restoration of Jordanian territory, which Israel had annexed in the past decades. He also ended a state of war that did not exist and placed Jordanian-Israeli relations above the table of public agreements after they were under the table for a long time.

We must admit that the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement after the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has pushed the train of peace a long way. However, this train is still running on an U.S.-Israeli-made railway and in accordance with U.S. and Israeli concepts and goals. The possibility of this train reaching the final station in Syria and Lebanon is still far off.

It is fair and logical to say that if peace has enemies and opponents on both sides, we must point our fingers at those who place obstacles and burn bridges wherever they are. The Islamic extremists are not alone in muddying "the clear water" flowing from Washington. Jewish extremism with its greater resources can poison the water from its very sources. The problem lies not in the existence of a conflict between America and the Islamic culture, as President Clinton has said, but in the latent blind alignment with Israel and the Jews and in the total conviction of keeping Israel a big power in the Middle East.

However, the most serious result of these agreements with Israel is the signs of the rapid collapse of Arab solidarity and the public indifference and apathy toward others' apprehensions and reservations. While during the signing ceremony King Husayn looked happy and self-satisfied and promised a new era of warm peace with Israel, his remarks tacitly carried fiery threats and warnings, reminding the Palestinians of Black September and [the Syrians] of the old tension between Jordan and Syria. He stressed that it is not President al-Asad's business to tell Jordan what to do. President 'Arafat lost his nerve because of Jordan's emphasis on its right to religious control in Jerusalem, and he repeated the famous old line that Jordan and Israel could drink the sea.

It was not strange in both cases for the U.S. media to ask King Husayn questions to elicit such answers so that the Arab rift would widen and deepen. There are currently strong speculations about new attempts to enable the Hashemite dynasty to restore its previous status in the region in light of the overwhelming desire to remove Saddam from Iraq at any price and find an alternative to the current regime in Iraq.

Eventually, it is not in the interest of peace and stability in the region if the Arabs replace their solidarity with a sole and unique solidarity only with Israel or with the United States because it is still premature to judge the future of peace.

Editor Views Clinton's Antiterrorism Message

NC0111095494 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 Oct 94 pp 1, 8

["The Political Stand" column by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "History Repeats Itself"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Before embarking on his historic Middle East tour, the U.S. President knew that what he dreamed of achieving in the region could not be achieved merely on the basis of the "ideal intentions" promoted by Washington. Since the President seeks personal glory and reelection to a new term, the United States must pay the price, no matter how heavy.

The groups that reject peace in the Middle East, on both sides, survived only because of the immense economic suffering experienced by the peoples of the region. This is perhaps the reason why President Clinton was eager to emphasize in all the Middle Eastern capitals he recently visited that the United States is ready to provide exceptional economic aid to pull the carpet from under the feet of the extremist groups, whose rejectionist views echoed only through the economic suffering of ordinary people in this country or that. [passage omitted]

The U.S. President was clear and direct in his strong attack against the groups that reject peace—the extremists hiding behind religion, such as Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, and other groups in some Arab countries. He called them the "past" that has no room in the present or the future.

This direct attack gave political analysts the impression that the new U.S. Administration wants to apologize for the grave mistakes it made when it wrongfully supported and sponsored these extremist groups in the past. So naive was the United States that it imagined a worthless terrorist like 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman could serve as a representative or exercise some influence against the old Soviet invasion of Afghanistan or enjoy great popularity in his country, Egypt. The naive previous U.S. Administration, therefore, granted this worthless ignorant person political asylum in the United States. This was recommended by the CIA, which had recruited him in Egypt and used him to serve its own objectives in Afghanistan! American security agencies found themselves in a resounding scandal when this worthless ignorant man took advantage of the naivete of the Americans, who gave him a status he did not deserve, to plan terrorist operations against them, notably the bombing of the huge World Trade Center in New York in 1993.

The naivete of the U.S. Administration was not confined to dealings with worthless people and swindlers like 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman or the extremist terrorist groups, such as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Very lately, we have been surprised to hear that the CIA has for a long time "turned a blind eye" to the activity of the extremist group known as Hamas—which opposes any peace in the region because peace would abolish its name, end its activity, and remove its raison d'etre. Not only has the CIA allowed the group to practice its terrorism and crimes, but has also overlooked—and this is more serious—its active representatives among the Palestinian community in the United States!

The United States is at last engaged in self-criticism for its previous naive dealings with terrorists and opportunists. This prompted it to lay its hands on the sources of finance for those people and organizations, whether in the Middle East or in the United States itself. On the occasion of Clinton's visit to the region, some American and European newspapers reported that the agenda of the secret talks the U.S. President would hold in some of the Arab countries he visited included the need for this country or that to stop its support and cut off the millions it extends to the groups that hide behind Islam. Without this support, those groups would not have been able to practice terrorism in some states of the region, particularly in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinian self-rule areas.

All American news media, especially the ones that support the current administration, have hastened to hail Clinton's tour of the region in search of peace in the Middle East. They also stressed that the American President succeeded in providing the Arab governments concerned with all available information about the financing of terrorism by some sides that are deceived by these opportunistic groups, in the hope that these governments will remove their support and assistance to the forces of darkness, who want no peace, well-being, or security for their peoples.

Congratulations to U.S. President Bill Clinton on the popularity he must have gained after his tour of our region, and congratulations to the security and peace of this region if the U.S. President has indeed succeeded—as American and European papers stressed—in convincing some of our Arab governments of the danger of their continued support for and financing of criminal and terrorist groups that pretend to uphold Islam when Islam has nothing to do with them.

Asyut Fire Brought Under Control

NC0211132194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Asyut, 2 Nov (MENA)—Asyut Governor Samih al-Sa'id has announced that the fire that broke out in one of the tanks in the main oil reservoir in Jabal Durunkah at dawn today has been brought under control and there are no human losses.

Elsewhere the governor gave immediate instructions to distribute relief aid, blankets, covers, and money to those affected by torrential rain in the cities of Sahil Salim and al-Ghanayim. The social affairs department has been instructed to distribute the aid to citizens in their homes immediately.

The Asyut Governorate bodies are currently trying to count human losses in the fire caused by burning oil tanks.

The fire extended to two factories and nearby homes.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1209 GMT on 2 November adds the following: "At least 10 people were killed" in the fire, which "was caused by a short circuit."]

Further on Fire

NC0311072594 Paris AFP in English 0225 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Report by Hassan Melki]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Asyut, Egypt, Nov 3 (AFP)—Hundreds of corpses are still be to recovered from the ashes of an Egyptian village, where at least 240 people are already reported to have died when escaping oil caught fire and sent rivers of flame through the community, police said early Thursday.

Several houses in Durunkah, located 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Cairo, were still ablaze early Thursday, nearly 24 hours after oil spilling out of an overturned tanker train near a depot was struck by lightning and caught fire.

Other witnesses said the oil was ignited when it came in contact with electricity pylons.

The blazing oil was then carried through the village of 20,000 inhabitants on flood waters that had formed following torrential rains in the region. Several fuel tanks caught fire and pipes exploded, engulfing the village in flame and smoke.

An official in the Asyut governor's office, who asked not be named, put the death toll on Wednesday at 240 at least.

But a police official on the scene, who also requested anonymity, said "hundreds of corpses have not yet been recovered."

"The operation to recover more bodies was called off Wednesday afternoon and will resume early Thursday," Asyut Governor Muhammad Samih al-Sa'id told AFP.

The official death toll from the fire is 167 but Al-Sa'id said more corpses could be found beneath the rubble of burned-out houses.

He said at least 35 people had died in Asyut province when their homes collapsed in the face of pelting rain.

Several Durunkah residents who managed to flee with their lives said the storage tanks were located in a military zone.

One resident, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hafiz, recalled witnessing the deaths of "40 to 50 soldiers who were guarding the tanks."

There was no immediate estimate on the number of injuries but an official at the Asyut hospital said "many people were suffering from atrocious burns."

Flames early Thursday leapt 200 meters into the sky from a still-burning tank, which erupted in a second explosion Wednesday afternoon that caused no casualties.

But inhabitants had earlier been trapped in a circle of fire between the depot, located on a hillside, and a blazing canal. Several people were trampled to death in a rush to escape, others were burned alive on the roofs of their houses, witnesses said.

"Children drowned in the pools of water at the bottom of the hill formed by the rain," according to Ahmad Muhammad, 23, who said 11 of his neighbors had perished.

Recalled Ahmad Sharif-al-Din: "I was bailing the water out of my house when I saw the flames. I thought it was the end of the world and I ran out with other people crying La ilaha illa Allah (There is no God but God.)"

Police officer Muhammad Sa'id Abd-al-Rahman said "seven people were killed in the mosque where they had gone for dawn prayers."

He added that 70 bodies were still in a building, where he knew the residents and from which 22 corpses had already been retrieved.

While local officials pledged assistance, many families huddled in the entry-ways of buildings in nearby Asyut. Others took shelter in mosques.

The governor ordered the distribution of tents and blankets as well as the opening of buildings still under construction to house the homeless.

Asyut itself had its water and electricity cut off in a move to avoid further fires.

The army was mobilized to join rescue operations and reinforcements sent in from neighbouring provinces. Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi ordered all ministers to send officials down to Asyut.

A state of emergency declared in the whole of southern Egypt because of the rain was extended to the Red Sea area and the Sinai peninsula, both areas prone to flooding. The national weather office predicted more storms for at least 24 hours.

Landslides were reported in southern Egypt as well as the Red Sea area.

Police meanwhile said rain had triggered nearly 60 fires in various parts of Cairo. The underground train network was closed and heavy traffic jams built up around the capital.

Some 100 shops were completely burnt down following short circuits in the Muski district, home to several ancient mosques, police said. They did not report further casualties.

Morocco

Accord on Economic Chamber Signed With Egypt

LD0211154494 Rabat MAP in English 1339 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca, Nov 2 (MAP)—Morocco and Egypt concluded here Tuesday [1 November] an agreement setting up a Moroccan-Egyptian economic chamber.

The accord, initialed by President of the Federation of Moroccan Chambers of Commerce 'Abdallah Azmani and Secretary General of the Egyptian Investment Body Ibrahim Abou Amira [name as received], provides for the setting up of sectoral commissions entrusted with exploring investment opportunities and promoting trade exchanges.

The accords also provides for lowering down customs barriers to increase the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries. These exchanges did not exceed 10 million dollars in 1993.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa who attended the signing ceremony said the accord translates the efforts made by the private sector in the two countries. The economic reforms operated in Morocco and Egypt are meant to energize the role of the private sector in economic promotion, Musa said.

News Conference Held on Casablanca Summit

LD0211143994 Rabat MAP in English 1354 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca, Oct. 2 (MAP)—The Casablanca economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa has reached a number of solutions to the problems tackled and it is now up to governments and business milieus to make possible the implementation of the summit's decisions, Andre Azoulay, adviser to King Hassan II for economic and financial affairs said here Tuesday.

In a preliminary statement to a press conference, Azoulay said the summit was not held in an ordinary diplomatic framework nor a traditional one, but was initiated so that the peoples which have suffered most of strife and hatred during these past fifty years find a new modus vivendi in the emerging, new, peaceful relationship. The declaration adopted and reaffirmed a set of known principles, but what is most important is that decisions were made and mechanisms identified, he said adding that though the summit has been the beginning of a process "the beginning is now behind and we are right in the process with its stages, means, structures and goals".

Azoulay, Klaus Schwab, president of the World Economic Forum and Leslie Gelb, president of the Council on Foreign Relations then answered questions of journalists. They announced that the executive secretariat of the Casablanca summit will be operational in the coming weeks and the choice of Morocco to host its office is essential. They asked Middle Eastern and North African countries to present themselves and as full-fledged partners their objectives and expectations.

The three officials specified that the summit does not have "the ambition to set a timetable, but to determine the implementation of a number of decisions over a span of time" and to achieve a rapprochement through setting in motion within a set deadline specific structures and mechanisms. They stressed the most precise point in the declaration remains the item on the setting up of new guarantee mechanisms for investors. These mechanisms, they explained, are a new vision of financial risk in a region that has just come out of a half century long war. The process will be a long one and it is too early to speak of financial aspects in term of sums and amounts, they added.

Concerning the results of contacts between businessmen who attended the summit, they said several agreements were reached and deals struck recalling that more than 100 private enterprises took part in side meetings and stressing that now it is up to governments to help economic contractors play fully their role. They specified that the 110 enterprise managers, who attended plenary sessions and sectoral meetings, have steadily and effectively contributed to the summit.

Morocco organized two gatherings to expound the projects it is intending to present to the international community and investors as part of the economic development of the region. They said the idea on an economic region has taken root in the minds in view of the prospect to develop partnership and overture and not interest and profits of some at the expense of others.

Referring to the project of a regional development bank, the three officials said 61 countries are participating and have agreed on its relevance, the United States and European Union pledged support to the bank whose capital will be contributed by both the private and public sectors. The context and specificities of the bank distinguish it from the Marshall Plan incepted by the Americans to help reconstruct Europe in the morrow of World War II, for its main contributor will be the private sector and not governments as was the case with the American plan.

On the nonattendance of Syria and Lebanon, they said that participants in the Casablanca summit wish sincerely the two countries will join in the move.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Reportedly To Give Up Power

AB0211165094 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 2 Nov 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sudan Government has said nothing about the new offensive in the south but the military leader, General al-Bashir, has been saying some startling things about his own political future. In fact, he says he is not going to have one. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report.

Not many leaders in Africa give up power voluntarily. Thus, when Sudan's leader, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, said he is in effect giving up power, many of his countrymen could not believe their ears. The general is today quoted by the official SUDAN NEWS AGENCY, SUNA, as telling an American writer that he will not stand in the next presidential elections. Presidential elections are due to be held in Sudan in 1996 or 1997. Next March, general elections will be held for state assemblies or parliaments, and later on in the year or in 1996, elections for the National Assembly, the highest legislative body, in the country will take place. After that, the president and his deputy will be elected by universal suffrage. There will, however, be no political parties. Al-Bashir banned all political parties when he seized power from the civilian former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in 1989, accusing them of corruption. He instead introduced Libyan-style people's congresses, which is the sole political system in the country today.

Although nobody has yet come forward to say he wants to run for the top job, the members of the National Islamic Front, NIF, which is headed by Dr. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi are, among others, expected to put up a candidate. The Front stands the best chance partly because its members dominate the government of al-Bashir at virtually all levels. Al-Turabi is currently the head of the Khartoum-based Popular Arabic and Islamic Conference, PAIC. The former university lecturer himself may not stand due to his age and the influential position he currently holds at the PAIC, but his former deputy of the party, Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, who is currently the minister of social planning, may well do so.

President Says Islamic Constitution Taking Shape

EA0211104594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has confirmed that work was under way to establish an Islamic Constitution, that its features had begun to take shape through constitutional decrees and tolerant customs, and that the final touches would be made in the near future with the completion of the political system and the election of a consultative body to draw up a permanent constitution for the country.

This was stated during an interview between Lieutenant General al-Bashir and an American writer, (Nelson Forbes), in his office at the Republican Palace.

The interview touched on the experiment of the Islamic system and the success it had achieved in administering the government. On the subject of the accusations being raised against Sudan and the (?harming) of the rights of non-Muslims, Lieutenant General al-Bashir affirmed that they were biased allegations being unleashed by political rivals who were hostile to Sudan.

In his interview, the president of the Republic also touched on the application of Islamic law. He said its sphere of application was broad and wide-ranging, and that there were many individual judgements by jurisprudents in this sphere.

He confirmed that Sudan was inclined toward moderation, and that the holy koran called for moderation on various issues. His excellency said: We want to found a society which suits our circumstances and our environment. In his interview with the American, Lieutenant General al-Bashir touched on the issues concerning south of the country. His excellency confirmed that the ending of the war and the establishment of peace were priorities for the government, and that Sudan was currently preoccupied with solving the issue through negotiation and dialogue.

Ministry Forum Views U.S. Relations, Media

EA2510193494 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The press forum of the Foreign Ministry was today addressed by Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, the minister of culture and information, and was attended by Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih.

The minister of culture and information called for the deepening of common understanding in order to boost the relationship between the Foreign Ministry and the media in order to realize the aspirations of the new Sudan. He said that the different media organs expressed the government's viewpoints and demanded that such viewpoints be based on the current policies and aims of the government.

Mr. Sabdarat called for the unification of the voice of the media particularly in the sphere of foreign policy as not to give opportunists a chance. He affirmed that the president was the sole authority entitled to formulate and amend policies in consultation with his advisers. He also referred to the great role performed by the media forum of the Foreign Ministry in disseminating foreign policy and informing the citizens through the media.

Ambassador Izz al-Din Hamid, the director general of technical and economic cooperation in the Foreign Ministry, also spoke at the forum on Sudanese-American relations. He stressed the government's seriousness in wanting to normalize and repair relations with America. He explained the ministry's efforts to remove misunderstandings and improve relations with Washington.

He reviewed the steps taken by the Foreign Ministry following the recent American statement concerning the al-Khudayr issue. He announced that the Foreign Ministry had stressed to the American ambassador in Khartoum the government's determination and eagerness to narrow the existing gap and normalize relations and the need for a mutual relation based on respect for sovereignty, the government's rights, and all that relates to its internal affairs. It was also stressed that small issues should not be exploited to criticize the state. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets Iranian Delegation

EA2610161594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih met the visiting parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. (Issa Muqandami Zadeh) this morning. At the meeting, the two sides reviewed the course of relations between Sudan and Iran and ways of promoting and developing them. They also reviewed the role of both countries' parliamentary institutions in boosting these relations. After the meeting, the head of the parliamentary delegation told the radio that his meetings with officials in Sudan had been fruitful and beneficial. He confirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will make every effort to stand by Sudan. The Iranian parliamentary delegation will visit the town of Rabak tomorrow to acquaint themselves with the

Rabak-al-Rank program being implemented by the Iranian organization—Jihad Reconstruction.

Government Ends Border Talks With Chad

EA2710210794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese-Chadian borders experts' committee has concluded sessions yesterday and issued a final communique which was signed by the governor of western Darfur State, Muhammad Ahmad al-Fadil, while (Baguni Tusogu), director of studies and administrative reform at Chadian Interior Ministry directory, signed for his government.

In accordance with 1924 [as heard] protocol [word indistinct], demarcation of borders, the communique includes (?specific) means for executing what the two sides have reached. The two sides have jointly agreed on the maintenance of ancient relations linking the two countries and [word indistinct]. The communique approved provision of funds and technical support for the execution of the project [singular as heard] in forthcoming December. [sentence indistinct]

Joint Ministerial Council With CAR Meets

EA0111224094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, chairman of the Joint Ministerial Council with the Central African Republic [CAR], has praised the developing results in relations between the two countries. Al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr announced that the meetings were characterized by clarity and a relaxed atmosphere, especially since they aspired toward decentralization. [sentence as heard] The interior minister said suitable ways of implementing all agreements signed between the two countries and the signing of further (?points) were discussed at the meeting. He added that tools for implementing the agreements of the Joint Ministerial Council, the technical committee, and the local authorities committee were agreed upon.

He said the most important provision in the agreement included the defining of the border in accordance with the 1924 agreement. A joint technical committee will be established before the end of December in this regard. He said the Government of Sudan is presently concentrating on the border issue with neighboring states, particularly with those whose borders are still undefined. In this regard, he said, similar meetings will be held with advisory [word indistinct] on 1 December.

The interior minister said the Ministerial Council meeting discussed facilitating the voluntary repatriation of 26,000 Sudanese from the CAR. He announced that it has been agreed that Sudan will open two consulates in the border towns of Umm Dafuk in Sudan and [name indistinct] in the CAR in order to facilitate the flow of information, and to strengthen activities and business at the border.

SPLA's Wandu Discusses Recent Successes

AB2810211994 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 28 Oct 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There were reports yesterday of many deaths in cattle raiding at the weekend in and around the town of Akot in Bahr al Gazal Province in southern Sudan. It was said that Nuwa tribesmen, heavily armed, had attacked the town and outlying cattle camps, killing 150 people and rustling tens of thousands of cattle. But there were suggestions that it might have more to do with the split in the rebel southern Sudan Liberation Movement between John Garang's faction, which controls the Akot Region, and the wing led by Riak Machar. Steven Wandu of the Garang SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] called us from Nairobi and Mary Harper asked him what their information was about what happened at Akot:

[Begin recording] [Wandu] The village of Akot is under the control of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA forces now. It was invaded last week by militias from militia commander Riak Machar, on the instigation of government of Khartoum. They invaded the town, which was basically a relief center, killing 150 civilians, vandalized a hospital which was run by OXFAM and other agencies, and looted 10,000 heads of cattle, which they drove away.

[Harper] Are you sure that these raiders were, in fact, acting on behalf of Riak Machar? Because it has been suggested that they might actually just have been cattle raiders.

[Wandu] Well, the people in the area have lived peacefully for years. We have not had an incident of ordinary cattle raiding in the area for very many years. And you may recall that Riak Machar's deputy is also doing the same activity further north at (Dema-Yan-Ebun) area. So this is a cordial activity between Riak Machar and the government of Khartoum to destabilize the relief activities there.

[Harper] Did SPLM forces engage in any way with these raiders?

[Wandu] Well, SPLA guards came to defend the civilians and they assisted the people in chasing away the invaders, yes.

[Harper] What is the situation like elsewhere in southern Sudan at the moment?

[Wandu] Well, on 26 October, the government forces in Kapoeta town, near the Kenyan border, got out of town and attacked our forces at (Horomash), eight kilometers on the Torit road. Also, Khartoum forces at Morobo at the Uganda border sector also got out of their garrison in an attempt to attack SPLA siege in the area. The enemy forces were destroyed and 17 of their soldiers are captured. Also, Khartoum forces at Rokon and Amadi were trying to advance towards Mundri. They have been engaged by SPLA forces and fighting is also continuing there.

[Harper] It sounds as if the Sudanese Government is making very, very significant advances against your forces.

[Wandu] The Khartoum Government is trying to make significant advances against our forces. We are putting every resistance possible, and I would like to add for the benefit of everyone that if Khartoum Government forces continue with this belligerence, they would never know what would happen to them.

[Harper] In this most recent round of fighting between yourselves and the government, have you undergone many casualties?

[Wandu] Well, I have told you that the forces in Morobo captured 17 enemy soldiers and killed more than 300. They ran into an ambush. We lost seven men also in the process.

[Harper] That is rather a dramatic difference in losses.

[Wandu] It is dramatic, yes, but then the point is that these are people who are working in an area which they don't know. These are Mujahedin who believe that can say Alah Akbar and they will win. Meanwhile, we are on our own place. We are in a forest and they don't know how to work in forests. They know deserts better and they are trying to do some guerrilla activity which they are not very good at. [end recording]

Says New Offensive Under Way

AB0211190594 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 2 Nov 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the last couple of weeks, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels in southern Sudan as well as aid agencies operating in the region have been bracing themselves to a resumption of fighting in the civil war between the rebels and the Khartoum Government. The July peace talks in Nairobi collapsed, the rainy season is ending, and each year the government launches a big offensive in the dry season and each year although the rebels seem to take a beating they are still there awaiting a new onslaught. Steven Wandu, the SPLA representative in Nairobi called us up to say that in spite of the government's declared cease-fire, a new offensive has begun, a most curious and unusual one in that the Army has been given the order to advance in the Nuba Mountains. Robin White asked Steven Wandu how he knew that order had been given:

[Begin recording] [Wandu] I know that the order has been issued because we normally monitor Khartoum headquarters and we also have friends; we are not without friends in military headquarters. In fact, it was issued on 21 October.

[White] And exactly what does the order say, according to you?

[Wandu] The order, according to what we know is that the military offensive which normally takes place around December and January should start immediately, and of course, there is further evidence because immediately after that order, government garrisons began to move out of their positions against the SPLA.

[White] And what has so far been attacked, according to you?

[Wandu] So far, on 26 October a mechanized battalion moved out of Kapoeta against SPLA in Khawr Marsa. There was fighting for one hour. The enemy sustained five killed, 27 wounded, and one tank was destroyed. In that encounter the SPLA lost two heroes with five wounded. The advance was repulsed into Kapoeta town. In Torit also on the 28th, the forces attempted to advance against SPLA positions on the outskirts of the town. The SPLA intercepted the movement. Ten enemy soldiers were killed and 15 were wounded. An 82-mm mortar was captured, a 12.7 machine gun was captured, three RPG-7s were captured, and a large quantity of G-3 rifles. Three SPLA soldiers were wounded in the process. Across at the west, near Morobo on 26 October, there was an enemy patrol which was ambushed by SPLA soldiers. Seven enemy soldiers were killed, and 12 wounded. One SPLA soldier was wounded in that encounter.

[White] Now, are you already losing territory because of these attacks?

[Wandu] Well, of the five attacks which have taken place so far we have contained them, we have chased them back into Kapoeta, we have chased them back into Torit town, and we have chased them back into Morobo and, in fact, there is even fighting taking place right now at Amadi in Mundri and elsewhere at Yei and Kajo Kaji. You see, we had besieged these towns so we are denying them the attempt to get out of this garrison town.

[White] But isn't it inevitable that you are now going to be pushed back?

[Wandu] Well, it is not inevitable. They are going to be pushed back. In fact, if they are not very careful, we might uproot them out of those places. We have been expecting this offensive, Robin, for a very long time. Khartoum made no secret of its plan. We were prepared for it and if they are not very careful they might well lose Torit, Morobo, Kapoeta, Yei, Kajo Kaji and any of these places, I can assure you of that. [end recording]

Ummah, DUP on Garang 'Opposition Strategy'

MM0211143594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Nizar Daww-al-Na'im and Kamal Hamid: "Ummah and Unionist Parties Welcome Garang Call for Holding 'Sudanese Opposition's Strategy' Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Khartoum—The Sudanese opposition parties the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] and the Ummah Party have agreed to respond to the invitation of Colonel Garang, leader of the "main tendency" in the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, to attend the [opposition] Democratic National Grouping's conference designed to draw up a strategy for the Sudanese opposition.

DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani supported the call and confirmed his approval of the agenda proposed by Garang. But he requested that the conference, scheduled to be held at the beginning of this month, be held "on another suitable date." He called for the meeting to be held in an African state, instead of Garang's proposal that it be held in the areas under his control in southern Sudan.

The DUP leader's information office pointed out in a statement, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received, that al-Mirghani sent a message to Garang yesterday, confirming his willingness to attend the conference "with a view to drawing up a strategy for stepping up opposition action and laying the foundations for a future unified Sudan."

Al-Mirghani stressed "the DUP's clear position vis-a-vis raising the banner of confronting the [National Islamic] Front's regime." He pointed out that "the party's extensive moves have exposed the regime's nature and its ugly practices against the Sudanese people."

In his reply to Garang's message in October, al-Mirghani said that "because of the short notice we believe that another suitable date should be agreed to enable all parties to respond to the invitation and to participate effectively in that meeting."

Mubarak al-Fadil, official in charge of external action in the Ummah Party, told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Ummah Party's Political Bureau in Sudan "agreed to the holding of the conference proposed by Garang, and that it added other proposals." He pointed out that his party coordinated with the DUP as regards accepting the invitation with a view to "crystallizing a constitutional political agreement on Sudan's future, organizing the opposition, and agreeing on a detailed program to topple the regime."

He went on: "The Ummah Party's position in principle supports holding such meetings inside Sudan because of their political meaning. But in response to the DUP's wish, we agree that they be held in an African state." He pointed out that "it is meaningless to delay the meeting, since the political situation in Sudan required an urgent move." He stressed that his party prefers that the meeting be held as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Official Refutes U.S. Reports on Omdurman Events

EA0211215594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] American allegations on what has taken place at (al-Khudayr) area, in Omdurman, two weeks ago, has been refuted by Dr. Sharaf al-Din Bannaqa, engineering affairs minister of the State of Khartoum.

Addressing the radio at the Foreign Ministry forum, Tuesday [1 November], Dr. Bannaqa said the protesting groups clashed with the police at the (al-Khudayr) [word indistinct]. Dr. Bannaqa described the (?culprits) opposing government policies (?and affairs) as (?fronts of) defunct political parties. He further asserted that shooting with firearms by other parties at the police continued for 10 minutes [words indistinct] and that one of the persons who shot at the police was arrested. Dr. Bannaqa said he believed that the Americans' statement was drafted by local parties as demonstrated by the typical spelling of [words indistinct] (al-Khudayr) which proves that there was a relationship between the person who drafted the statement and protesters.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Receives PLO's 'Arafat

LD0211235494 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Ben Ali conferred at Carthage Palace this afternoon with Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian president, in the presence of Habib Ben Yahia, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Faruq Qaddumi, Director of the PLO's Political Department; and Faysal al-Husayni; Member of the Palestinian Self- Rule Authority. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Pardons Prisoners on 7th Anniversary

LD0211170494 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has this morning met at Carthage Palace Abdallah Kallel, minister of state in the Interior Ministry [title as heard], and Sadok Chaabane, justice minister.

On the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the change, the president has decided to pardon 613 convicted people who have received training within the framework of the rehabilitation program, which the head of state has authorized since October 1991. [passage omitted] His Excellency the president has also decided to grant a special pardon to 1565 convicted people.

Beyond this, the minister of state in the Interior Ministry informed his excellency the president that a conditional release has been granted to 358 prisoners. The justice minister also informed the head of state that the pardon committee has also agreed to 376 applications for the restoration of rights, and that 625 people have automatically benefitted from this measure.

Government Receives Islamic Development Bank Loans

LD3010215894 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2052 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 30 Oct (SPA)—Two agreements worth a total of $16 million were signed at the headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah today. The money will be used by the Republic of Tunisia to finance two foreign trade transactions. The Tunisian Steel Manufacturing Company will be granted $11 million by the three member states: Algeria, Morocco, and Egypt. The second agreement provides an investment of $5 million for the national Tunisian Company of Esparto Grass and Paper Paste. The two agreements were signed by the bank chairman, Usamah Ja'far Faqih, in the presence of the Tunisian consul general in Jeddah, Mr. Kacem Bensalah. [passage omitted]

Ghannounchi Interview Addresses Extremism

NC2810095594 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 24 Oct 94 pp 28-32

[Interview with Rached Ghannounchi, leader of the Tunisian Ennahda Movement, by Zaynab Farran, in Beirut; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Farran] You have good relations with the Islamic movement in Algeria. Do you toe its line in your relations with the Tunisian regime or have a different view of the conflict?

[Ghannounchi] The Islamic movement in Algeria and elsewhere is not one movement. It would be an oversimplification to speak about one course or one program for change. There is more than one Islamic movement in Algeria itself. There is more than one program for change. The various interpretations of the texts and of the situation have led to the creation of several Islamic movements. We in Tunisia have had a situation significantly different from the situation of our brothers in Algeria. The modernization of Tunisia under outside pressure began in the 19th Century. It then turned into a process of containment and Westernization.

In short, Tunisia more than any other Arab country was subjected to a violent Westernization process to exclude Islam. The exclusion process was not confined to the social and political aspect but aimed to eradicate Islam at its roots.

Tunisia is the only country whose president held a cup at the end of the blessed month of Ramadan and drank in front of the people, telling them: Break the fast so you can defeat your enemy. Your enemy is backwardness. In order to get rid of economic backwardness, you must get rid of fasting. At the beginning of the 1960's, all employees of state establishments and students of boarding schools were ordered not to fast.

Tunisia is the only country whose president dared to tear up a woman's hijab [head scarf] at a public meeting. In a speech in 1974, he ridiculed Paradise and Hell and accused the Holy Koran of contradiction. In Tunisia there is still a law banning the hijab and preventing state establishments from dealing with a woman wearing the hijab. A pregnant woman about to deliver a baby is not allowed to enter a hospital unless she removes the hijab.

The authorities are practicing religious persecution of the Muslim people. They have closed thousands of mosques, thrown thousands of Islamists in jail, and subjected them to various forms of torture. [passage omitted]

[Farran] Are you against the use of violence?

[Ghannounchi] We are the victims of violence and hence are against its use. However, before we denounce the violence by the masses, we must denounce the causes of violence. The violence of the victim and the violence of the aggressor are not one and the same thing. The aggressors in the Arab world now are not the opposition movements but the domineering regimes which, in the eyes of our people, behave like foreigners. It is unfair to describe our rulers' behavior as a reflection of and response to the desire of the West. The West exercises government with rationality and believes that violence breeds more violence. [passage omitted]

[Farran] You don't covet power. Nevertheless, you say that the Islamic Movement will be the realistic alternative to the present regime. For this reason, the West is trying to deal with this movement. How do you explain this?

[Ghannounchi] We are accused of extremism by the regime although all our demands are modest. This is because of the strong central character of the Tunisian regime, which has been ruling with an autocratic mentality since the ruling party appeared in the 1930s. Now the regime describes us as terrorists and fundamentalists. [passage omitted]

[Farran] What are the most serious challenges facing our nation?

[Ghannounchi] The most serious challenges facing our nation are not the Zionist threats but the Zionist designs to inherit our nation and the West as well. The Zionists have designs to take over the leadership of the world and move its centers of power from London and Washington to Jerusalem. They want to destroy all existing religious and cultural projects.

[Farran] There is a big controversy over the relationship between Islam and Christianity. What is your view?

[Ghannounchi] The word Nasara [Nazarans] proves that Christianity is an integral part of this homeland. Eastern Christianity is important for us in our dialogue with the West. Our Muslim ancestors stressed that the Nasara, although Christians in their creed, were Muslims in their culture and contributed to Islamic civilization. [passage omitted]

[Farran] What about the Jewish religion?

[Ghannounchi] Islam recognizes all religions, including the Jewish religion. Islam does not generalize. It does not say this community is polytheistic. It uses the formula of probability, which is the proper formula for speaking about the Jewish community, which has some good people. There are groups of Jews who reject the Zionist project in part or as a whole. We must realize that despite the oppression by the Jews, we must adhere to this Koranic course, which does not blame a whole community, a people who follow a certain religion, or a whole race. [passage omitted]

[Farran] What about apostasy?

[Ghannounchi] Apostasy is not punished by death. It will be dealt with on Doomsday. Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq [the first caliph] fought the apostates because of their political coup against Islam and not because of their ideological stand. God is the one who will call an apostate to account. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Ould Salek Hopes Morocco Endorses Resolution

LD2910132694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Western Sahara Foreign Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, in an statement to APA, expressed the hope that Morocco will abandon its maneuvers and the creation of obstacles, and will cooperate in implementing the resolution endorsed yesterday in New York by the fourth international decolonization commission, which stresses the need for and importance of resuming direct talks between Morocco and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro]. The resolution also states that the aim of these talks would be to facilitate the implementation of the self-determination referendum in Western Sahara without military and administrative pressures. The resolution was endorsed by 58 states—to date, the highest number of states supporting these talks on the Western Sahara issue.

General Workers' Union Praises Algerian Support

LD2410093394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The third conference of the General Union of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro Workers ended its proceedings late last night at the Ocerbe camp in the presence of the Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz, the organization's new leadership, members of the organization's national council, and international trade union delegations.

In its final statement the conference praised the important resolutions produced by the conference and called on all Saharan workers to implement them. The statement also hailed the firm stance of the Algerian people, government, and political forces since the beginning of the armed struggle. This support is continuing to grow and increase.

Recommendations regarding the affairs of the General Union of Saharan Workers and its organizational and workers' sectors in the occupied Saharan territories were passed.

Bahrain

Bahrainis in London Denounce 'Repression'

MM0211163094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Bahrainis Stage Sit-in in London To Demand Their Return and Freedom of Opinion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Bahraini citizens, among them women and children, staged a sit-in in front of a major London hotel where Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad is to deliver a speech on the sidelines of his visit to the British capital.

Those staging the sit-in, most of whom are from families banned from returning to Bahrain, denounced the policies of repression and the suppression of opposition politics in their country. A statement issued by the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain described those staging the sit-in as "merely a small sample from among thousands of victims whom the dictatorship has expelled from their country because of their views or put in jail merely because they called for the law and the Constitution to be applied and an end to the obstruction of freedoms and human rights violations."

The statement accused the government of monopolizing the media, saying that "the press, radio, and television are controlled directly by the government...and journalists are not allowed to write on sensitive issues."

It is worth mentioning that the 1979 Bahraini publications law gives the information minister the power to scrutinize writings before and after printing, and also to ban the printing of any newspaper or publication that includes anything that violates the clauses of the law. Foreign establishments and figures need the Information Ministry's prior approval of any publication.

Kuwait

Cabinet Welcomes Israeli-Jordanian Treaty

LD0211152494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 2 Nov (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait expressed its satisfaction today at the recent signing of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, stressing that its policies are in line with international efforts aimed at bolstering international peace and stability.

This was said in a Cabinet meeting chaired by Shaykh Sa'd al- 'Abdallah al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister.

The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers expressed hope that the treaty will be a blessed step on the path of a comprehensive, permanent, and just peace in the region. The Council also expressed the hope that the treaty will contribute to a comprehensive agreement involving all the sides concerned and help to achieve peaceful cohabitation between all peoples in the region.

In another development, Nasir al-Rawdan, the second deputy prime minister and minister of finance, said that the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers expressed satisfaction with the compatibility of U.S. and Kuwaiti points of view and the friendly atmosphere that prevailed during President William Jefferson Clinton's visit to Kuwait last week.

He pointed out the United States' commitment to Kuwait's security and sovereignty and to the need to force the Iraqi regime to fully implement all the UN Security Council's resolutions in connection with the Gulf war. [passage indistinct]

Saudi Arabia

Fahd: Talks With Clinton 'Clear, Successful'

LD3110163694 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1528 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 26. 5. 1415, corresponding to 31 October 1994—Under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, the Council of Ministers held its weekly session this afternoon, Monday 26 Jumada al-Awwal, at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh. Following the session, His Excellency Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to the Saudi news agency, SPA, in which he said:

At the beginning of a comprehensive address with which the custodian of the two holy mosques opened today's session, God safeguard him, the king briefed the council about the nature of the talks he held last Friday with His Excellency President of the United States Bill Clinton and the accompanying delegation during the king's reception in King Khalid military city in Hafar al-Batin.

King Fahd pointed out the profound relations linking the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America on grounds of mutual respect and joint cooperation for the benefit of the two countries and their peoples and hence for the benefit of all the causes of the Arab nation and the strengthening of the process of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that would bring about security and stability in the region.

The minister of information went on to say that King Fahd explained to the Council of Ministers that the talks with the U.S. President were clear, successful, and fruitful.

There was unanimous agreement over the whole of the issues of continuing and joint interests, the minister added. His Majesty pointed out that the U.S.-Saudi joint statement, issued at the end of his meeting with President Clinton included all the issues King Fahd raised in his address to the Council of Ministers, he said.

Minister al-Sha'ir said: Then King Fahd reviewed the latest political and security developments on Arab and international levels and discussed a number of important issues raised recently on the Arab arena explaining the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's stance regarding those issues, particularly with the delicate circumstances the Arab nation is currently going through, especially in the Gulf region. [passage omitted]

Delegation Head Addresses Casablanca Conference

LD0211142194 Riyadh SPA in English 1308 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca, Nov 2, SPA—Saudi Arabia is fully committed to boosting the peace process in the Middle East, according to Dr Sulayman al-Salim, the minister of commerce and the head of the kingdom's delegation to the economic conference of the Middle East and North Africa, which concluded its deliberations in Casablanca on Tuesday [1 November].

In an address before the conference delegates last Monday, al- Salim said the peace plan adopted by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz at the Arab summit conference, held in Casablanca in 1982, constituted a turning point in the history of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestinian problem and paved the way for Madrid peace conference in 1991.

The kingdom contributed to the convening of Madrid conference and participated in its deliberations and at the same time it underscored the importance of breakthroughs in the bilateral talks because it was aware of the fact that multilateral talks should be complementary and not alternative option to the bilateral talks, he said.

The convening of the economic summit about the Middle East and North Africa is stemmed from the fact that realization of peace in the region would provide opportunity to the countries of the region to dedicate their efforts for realization of economic development and improving the standard of living, he said and added that the conference aims at encouraging the private sector to shoulder its responsibility towards the development in the Middle East and North Africa and attracting required capitals for this purpose. "Moreover, it will shed light on the new horizons for the economic development that will follow peace in the region."

Dr al-Salim noted that there would be no need for setting up new administrative institqtions to meet the requirements of development.

"We have an ample number of national, regional an international financial institutions to meet the requirements of development," he said.

Al-Salim welcomed the breakthrough in the peace talks at the Jordanian and Palestinian sides and said the kingdom was looking for attaining progress at the Syrian and Lebanese sides so as to reach a just settlement for the Palestinian problem including the problem of Jerusalem which constitutes the core of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

On the kingdom's contribution to the process of economic development in the Arab and Muslim countries as well as its contribution to financing the national, regional and international financial institutions, al-Salim said the kingdom's total assistance and contributions amounted by the end of 1993 to about 70 billion.

He also said the kingdom had participated in the international conference for the donors of the Palestinian authority that was held in Washington in October 1993. The kingdom allocated for this purpose about 100 million in 1994, he said.

King Fahd Speaks in Hafr al-Batin

LD3010205794 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hafr al-Batin, Oct 30, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has expressed pride on the strict adherence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to teachings of the Holy Quran and pure Suna of the prophet, peace be upon him which groups all advantages and favors and that enabled the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to enjoy all the respect and in no need for the favor of anyone but the almighty Allah.

King Fahd made the remarks in an extemporized speech he delivered during his reception of a group of citizens, commanders and officers of the northern region at the royal court of King Khalid military city, Hafr al-Batin on Saturday.

He advised the Armed Forces personnel to adhere strictly to the teachings of Islam, one of the great boons bestowed by the almighty Allah on the country.

Referring to the tragic events witnessed by the region, King Fahd said problems caused by wars could resolved in the framework of the divine duty of defending the country, the faith and lives.

King Fahd expressed surprise on what happened from the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn, who disregarded the great favor done by the kingdom for him in the past and attributed such improper acts to spitefulness, ill-will and lack of farsighting and. [sentence as received]

He underscored the leading role undertaken by the kingdom to repulse the aggression of Saddam Husayn.

"We stood beside our brothers in Kuwait because we believe that what had happened to Kuwait would have had happen to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other brothers. Your country is well-known for not being a troublemaker, does not like to create problems for others and at the same time, tolerates no act that might injures its dignity and honour," the king told the audience.

He emphasized the fact that the Almighty Allah has bestowed uncounted favors on the kingdom, whether the petroleum wealth or other resources which helped the kingdom to continue the process of development and prosperity and assured citizens that the government would spare no efforts to maintain the well-being of all citizens.

"I think, the state has done what could be done to realise the welfare of the citizens including comfortable housing, water and electricity, crediting funds, trade, agriculture projects and continues to do anything that might serve the interest of citizens," he said.

King Fahd referred to the events witnessed by the kingdom during the days of the vicious Iraqi aggression and occupation of Kuwait and said it was the duty of the kingdom to spend huge sums of money to face up the danger when all amicable and mediated solutions failed to convince the Iraq ruler to reconsider the aggressive stand.

"As you know, the circumstances witnessed by the region have eaten wet and dry as the Arab saying put it, but we believe that Allah would compensate what had been lost with a more blessed thing", he said.

Regardless anything, the king said, and in view of what we hear, watch and read about what is taking place in Europe, America and other parts of the world, it seems that the kingdom was the safest country in the world and added that as long as the country adheres to the Islamic teachings, the Almighty Allah will help us to defend the country and there is nothing to fear when financial situation changes or instability witnessed by certain matters, that this the mode of life on the earth.

The Saudi monarch expressed deep satisfaction on the wise and moderate foreign policy being pursued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with all countries and especially the historical and friendly ties with the United States of America since the era of late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz and said the ties between the two countries were based on solid attitudes of mutual respect. He cited the moral and material assistance rendered by the kingdom for many countries round the world particularly the Islamic ones and stressed the point that the kingdom looks to the multi-billion riyals of assistance provided by the kingdom to brothers as a duty and is waiting for no thanks and favour.

He reminded the audience that the kingdom endured huge spendings to sustain brotherly and friendly troops that came from more than 30 countries who sacrificed their sons to defend the region.

King Fahd expressed pride that the Almighty God has honoured the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by housing and service of the two holy mosques and with following the accurate Islamic teachings. He made it clear that the kingdom would never relinquish its Islamic style and indigenous traditions and values.

Recalling the days of the Iraqi aggression of Kuwait, King Fahd said he remained for four or five days praying for the Almighty Allah to guide him for the right way and the best means to deal with the issue, and then decided to support Kuwait and its people against an aggression of a man who received much support from Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said when Saddam, who charges that he is an Arab and Muslim, reaches Kuwait, he will soon or later try to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He highlighted the swift and effective position adopted by the USA and other brotherly and friendly countries, Britain, France, Egypt, Syria and Morocco to stand beside Kuwait and the kingdom. He lauded the positive reaction showed by the Saudi civilians and military personnel towards what had happened that time.

King Fahd thanked the Almighty God that the natural resources of the kingdom, mainly oil, were discovered in the aftermath of the World War II and said if these resources were discovered before, then the country might be colonized and the wealth would had been wasted and deprive the nation from the great favors enjoyed by the kingdom in recent times.

Remembering the noble deeds of late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, King Fahd said King 'Abd-al-'Aziz was so generous that he used to tour houses of poor people in the darkness of the nights to distribute charities during the month of Ramadan without disclosing his identity and he suggested that the Almighty Allah had rewarded King 'Abd-al-'Aziz by the discovery of oil for taking care of poor who always prayed for the Almighty Allah to open the treasures of the land for him. King Fahd said late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz mentioned this when the first oil well was opened.

King Fahd acknowledged that mistakes and misunderstanding is a common phenomena even between the members of a one family but matters should be settled by amicable and cordial means and good will should be there always. He attributed strange behavior witnessed by the country in recent times to the fact that the kingdom is hosting huge numbers of people from different nation- alities who brought with them their own traditions that might contradict with that of the Saudis.

King Fahd said he sincerely believes that mistakes done by some citizens do not serve the interest of the nation and urged citizen to try to find out what is wrong and what is right and expressed confidence that the Saudi citizen could differentiate between what is wrong and what is right and avoid what ever might harm the faith and the state organizations.

"The government has opened heart, doors and capabilities to listen to the opinions at all governorates, provinces, shoura and regional councils, which were established when the Saudi citizen reached a matured stage whereby they could think properly on the interest of the nation under all circumstances," he said.

Despite the advanced level reached by the national cadres in various fields, the king said, yet the kingdom [is] still in need for foreign experts on certain positions as done by most countries of the world even in Europe and America.

King Fahd since when he was appointed as the first minister of education, he started to dispatch increasing number of Saudi students and trainees for scholarships to advanced Western countries and expressed pride that all of them returned to the kingdom with adequate knowledge to contribute to the development march of the country.

As for anomalous and deviants, they were always remain out of control, he said and added that advice should be rendered to such misguided people and it is a duty to show them the right way of thinking as the state has no intention to detain any body as long as keeps away from harming the interests of citizens.

He termed as exaggerated news being circulated on the arrest of a large number of people and said the accurate number is very limited but added that if anyone tries to apostatize and defect from the Islamic faith, the authorities would not hesitate to detain him for correction and to protect the society from evils after a considerable period of consultation with the concerned religious bodies and senior ulema who could decide his fate and the state has the duty of carrying out the verdict.

"Our duty is to execute the verdicts of the senior ulema authority and any one who rebels should repent and come back to the right way but we will never tolerate anyone who might try to disturb the stability and dictate conditions from outside the country or deform the reputation of ulema," King Fahd said.

He said the government has never interfered in the affairs of the sharia courts or tries to influence their rules which could be referred to the courts of appeal and higher judicial authorities in a completely free atmosphere and the authorities of the Ministry of Interior were confined to investigations and prevent occurrence of crimes.

Citing the three basic systems of shoura, regions and cabinet King Fahd said the organizations were already existing but he introduced some improvements for them to cope with the new developments and said the systems have enjoyed the admiration of even Christian leaders. He said the three systems were issued after careful studies by qualified national experts.

King Fahd said sixty people, belonging to all regions, were appointed as members of the Shoura Council and said he might reconsider the system. He said no official was entitled to stay more than four years in his post during which his performance could be assessed.

King Fahd emphasized the duties and responsibilities of the highest bodies of the state including the Shoura Council and the Council of Ministers and said the two bodies pursue an integrated method in dealing with various developments.

He said individual freedom has been guaranteed for all citizens. King Fahd expressed satisfaction over the role undertaken by the Shoura Council and councils of the regions as an excellent start that set the conditions of the country and the religious values and traditions of its population and said if there are any mistakes they could be referred to by qualified ulema and experts for settlement.

"Our hearts and doors are open for listening to citizen whether he comes personally or send a message and we will do any thing to deal with all matters," he said.

He noted the important meetings held at Hafr al-Batin with many leaders including the recent visit of the U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Prince Chairs Higher Council of Islamic Affairs

LD0211140594 Riyadh SPA in English 1251 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 2, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, chaired here last night a meeting of the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs.

In an address before the council, Prince Sultan highlighted the wise decision of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to set up the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs.

He said the council, whose works earlier had been carried by several governmental authorities and then integrated into a broad framework under it, is comprised of a number of experts and educated men. "The Higher Council of Islamic Affairs will now play an important role in the service of Islam and Muslims," he added.

The meeting was attended by Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy, Dr Khalid al-'Anqari, the minister of higher education, Dr 'Abdallah al-Shaykh, the minister of justice, Dr 'Abdallah al-Turki, the minister of Islamic affairs, endowments, and Dr Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, the secretary general of the Muslim World League.

Speaking to reporters following the council's meeting, Prince Sultan said the custodian of the two holy mosques had given directions to integrate efforts, which had earlier been exerted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the service of Islam through universities, the administrations of scientific researches and ifta [Islamic legal ruling] and the Higher Commission for Islamic Call (dawa), under the two newly established bodies namely the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs and the Council of Call (dawa) and Guidance, headed by the minister of Islamic affairs, endowments, call and guidance.

The Higher Council of Islamic Affairs will shoulder its responsibility towards the service of the Muslim minorities and Muslims in other countries as well as building of mosques and holy Quran memorization schools, he said noting that the council comprises the ministers of interior, foreign affairs, Islamic affairs, endowments, call and guidance, justice, finance and economy, higher education and the secretary general of the Muslim World League.

Prince Sultan said a preparatory committee will be formed to help the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs in performing its mission. The preparatory committee, which will include representatives from a number of the concerned ministries, is linked with the minister of Islamic affairs, endowments, call and guidance. He noted that the members of the preparatory committee, who are approved by the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs, included Dr 'Ali al-Namlah, member of the Consultative Council, Dr Muhammad al-Abudi, assistant secretary general of the Muslim World League, Dr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Muhsin al- Turki, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Ammar.

Prince Sultan said the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs will dedicate its efforts in the service of Muslims and Muslim minorities without interfering in the domestic affairs of the countries where they live.

"Our goals are not of a political nature. The Higher Council of Islamic Affairs will resolve to work to help the Muslims everywhere and at any time provided that these Muslims do not become destructive elements in the countries of their residence," Prince Sultan elaborated. "Moreover, the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs primarily aims at helping the Muslims in building mosques, holy Quran memorization schools, Islamic centers as well as assisting the charitable societies. We are against interference in the affairs of the others and politicization of Islam. The Higher Council will dedicate its efforts to sincerely serve Islam on the path of Allah," he said.

Asked to comment on a speech delivered by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in Hafar al-Batin last Saturday, Prince Sultan said "the speech had come out from a clean heart. We pray to Allah to help us realize the aspirations of the king about his people and the hopes of the people in their leadership," he said.

Prince Sultan said the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs would do its best to serve Islam in the kingdom and abroad as well as promote close cooperation with the Council of Call and Guidance, headed by the minister of Islamic affairs, endowments, call and guidance.

"Outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we shall never cooperate with any destructive party, but we shall always be ready to forge cooperation with any constructive party in line with the teachings of Islam," he elaborated.

Prince Sultan called on the Saudi media to play a positive role in the service of Islam.

Asked if the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs would have a role in formulating the kingdom's policy regarding support and aid to Muslims, Prince Sultan said the Higher Council will extend its aid to Islamic callers and guides as well as help students of the Muslim minorities to continue their education at the Islamic universities.

"We may also forge cooperation with the Islamic universities outside the kingdom on issues pertaining to the students from poor Muslim countries, Islamic enlightenment bodies and prospective contributions to charitable works," Prince Sultan added.

Group Blames Police for 'Disaster' in Raid

MM0211162694 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Rights Committee: Saudi Police Responsible for 'Disaster' of Storming al-Rajihi's House"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia yesterday held Saudi security forces responsible for the "disaster" that resulted from their storming of the house of the well-known Saudi businessman Yusuf al-Rajihi.

A statement issued by the committee said that the storming operation was carried out without careful planning, which led to the killing of the infant, Mish'al, by two bullets and the serious wounding of his mother, 'A'ishah, who had to undergo several operations and be put in intensive care. [passage committed]

The statement said that "the committee stresses the regime's full responsibility for the deterioration of security and the spread of crime, which has recently assumed alarming dimensions regarding crimes committed by organized gangs, bank robberies, and hostage-taking, in addition to organized drug trafficking and crimes involving the abduction of women and children and rape under the supervision of some members of the royal family and their entourage."

Dissident Radio on Exported Russian Arms

NC3010162594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian military experts, including a general working in a government arms export commission, say that Saddam's regime is acquiring various weapons from a European market. The weapons include chemical weapons and the most sophisticated missile-guidance technology, reports the London-based AL-HAYAH.

Citing these experts, AL-HAYAH says that the Russian intelligence apparatuses have received information indicating that these sophisticated missile systems do exist in Baghdad. An investigation was launched with the parties involved, including the institute that produced those systems in Saint Petersburg.

According to the experts, Central Asia and some Russian regions, like Chechenya and Kalinin, in addition to Lebanon and the Turkish sector of Cyprus, are among the most important channels through which the Russian weapons are moved from Orel to Middle Eastern states, including Iraq.

Minister Discusses Cooperation With Russia

JN0211092994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Industry and Minerals Minister Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan met yesterday with Russian Ambassador to Iraq Nikolay Kartuzov. The minister reviewed the important and deep relationship with the Russian Federal Republic and its development. He also praised Russia's recent positive role and initiative in the UN Security Council and reaffirmed the importance of extending the bridges of cooperation between the two friendly countries, especially in the industrial fields in order to bolster the ties of friendship and common interests.

The minister pointed out that President Saddam Husayn has ordered the development of relations with Russia in view of its positive returns in the service of both countries.

The minister said that the stage when Iraq was only an oil country and a consumer state has gone for good. We now aspire to become a producer state and we hope to extend the bridges of mutual confidence and cooperation in order to build a new Iraq.

Ambassador Nikolay Kartuzov expressed his thanks and appreciation for Iraq's cooperation with the Russian foreign minister in his mission, which was essentially aimed at defusing the crisis and bringing the viewpoints of Iraq and the Security Council closer together. He referred to the understanding shown by the Security Council members toward Iraq's positive stands and continuous cooperation, reaffirming that Russia seeks to develop its relationship with Iraq.

The ambassador said: My meeting with President Saddam Husayn when he received the Russian foreign minister was an historic moment. I really felt the deep relationship that exists between Iraq and Russia. We truly seek to develop this relationship.

The ambassador also affirmed that Russia seeks to lift the blockade on Iraq, reduce the suffering of its people, and preserve its sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said: We are very hopeful about bridging the gaps in the Iraqi-Russian relationship in the economic, trade, and industrial fields.

Al-Sahhaf Protests U.S. Maneuvers to Arab League

JN0211170794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1623 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (INA)—The Arab League yesterday received a letter from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf. The letter stresses Iraq's condemnation of current U.S. military maneuvers and the violation of Iraqi airspace in the south. The letter, which was conveyed to the Arab League by Nabil Najn, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, stresses that this U.S. military action is provocative and unilateral and threatens Iraq's security and safety. The letter says that the provocative U.S. military action emphasizes the U.S. Administration's hostile intentions and its continued efforts to create tension and crises in the Gulf region despite the calm atmosphere and current efforts to reach political and diplomatic solutions. The letter calls for registering Iraq's protest against this serious action, which is endangering Iraq's safety and security, and for distributing it on the Arab League member states as one of the league's official documents.

U.S. Airspace 'Violation' Protested to UN

JN3110135994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has again lodged a protest with the United Nations against the U.S.'s violation of Iraqi airspace for purposes of provocation and surveillance. In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent UN representative said that from 11-20 October U.S. aircraft carried out 903 air hostile sorties over numerous Iraqi areas. The Iraqi permanent representative requested that the memorandum be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

Tribal Chiefs Pledge Allegiance to Saddam

JN3110105194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the Shammar tribal chiefs in which they renewed to his excellency their pledge that they will remain loyal soldiers in defense of great Iraq against the forces of evil and aggression. The following is the text of the cable:

Mr. President,

We swear to God that we will not exchange your traces on the ground with Al Sa'ud and all their possessions, or with the al-Asad regime, or with the ayatollahs in Tehran.

Mr. President,

I am here to live and to die in the service of this homeland. It is my honor, which has been further enhanced by your presence at the head of the procession. May God grant you success. God is with the patient and the steadfast ones. May God preserve and protect you for us and for the Arab and Islamic nation, for God answers our prayer. May God preserve you for us.

[Signed] Humaydi 'Ujayl al-Yawir, on behalf of the Shammar tribal chiefs

SAIRI Holds Talks With KDP's Barzani

LD0111142794 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—A delegation from the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) met with leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Mas'ud Barzani in the Iraqi Kurdistan on Monday [31 October]. Sources close to the SAIRI said on Tuesday that the delegation also held talks with members of the KDP's political bureau, on the situation in the Iraqi Kurdistan, bilateral relations and ways of uniting all Iraqi opposition groups. Barzani met with SAIRI head Ayatollah Muhammad-Baqir Hakim during his visit to Tehran late October.

Deserters Said Mutilated; Opposition Congress Viewed

MS0111135094 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 1 Nov 94 p 21

[Report by Amberin Zaman: "Iraqi Deserters Defy Surgeon's Saw"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah al-Din—An Iraqi doctor who fled to the Kurd-held north says he left because he was sickened at the Baghdad regime's use of amputation to deter deserters.

The 28-year-old physician, who identified himself only as Kamal, ran away last month from a group of doctors ordered by the regime of President Saddam Husayn to perform the operations.

"I could no longer bear more choppings of ears, hands, legs; the screams, the blood, the suffering of innocent people; so I escaped here," said the Iraqi Arab from Baghdad.

"They used to bring up to 100 of them every day," he said. "We were ordered to amputate either a hand, a foot, an ear, sometimes both. We were not allowed to ask any questions, we were just ordered to do it, often without anaesthetic.

"They were usually too tired, hungry and sick to resist. They lay there like sacrificial sheep." By the time he decided to escape, Kamal knew of at least 1,700 deserters who had undergone operations.

The brutal campaign is widely seen as a further indication that Saddam's grip is weakening. If anything, desertions are on the increase. In October, opposition sources say, at least 167 soldiers and 13 officers defected, bringing to 13,000 the number of desertions since the end of the Gulf war.

Some defectors are making their way to Salah al-Din, a village in the Kurdish mountains, where the main opposition parties—Sunni, Shiite, Assyrian and Kurd—are plotting Saddam's removal.

When the Iraqi National Congress, the umbrella group for the main parties, was formed two years ago, few Western governments took it seriously. Its leaders were based outside Baghdad-controlled territory and many were at odds over the nature of a post-Saddam Iraq.

The Congress has since emerged as the sole credible alternative to the Ba'ath regime and is accepted as such by American, European and Middle Eastern governments.

A Western diplomat said: "Its attraction is that it has all the ethnic and religious bits of the Iraqi jigsaw and is talking democracy."

Mr Ahmad Jalabi, the Shiite president of the Congress's executive council, said the group's connections in Iraq became clear last month when it played a part in alerting the world to the Iraqi troop build-up on the Kuwaiti border.

The former banker also said the Congress was attracting more military personnel, including officers. "They are hungry, disenchanted and threatened by Saddam," he said. "But, more important, they see the Congress as a means to get rid of him."

The Congress has also begun to attract Shiite factions from the south. Mr Abu-Ahmad, a Shiite militia leader, said: "If Saddam's Republican Guards have to pull out from the region, it will be the beginning of the end."

Mr Ahmad, who was in Salah al-Din with 60 men for military consultations, said Shiite militia were engaging Iraqi troops in the triangle formed by al-Nasiriyah, al-Kut and Al-'Amarah, killing some and seizing their weapons.

According to Mr Jalabi, about 4,000 Iraqi deserters are now deployed by the Congress across northern Iraq to monitor troop movements and to carry out what he described as "special missions".

Mr Jalabi's prestige was further enhanced when Congress troops recently helped enforce a ceasefire between the two main Kurdish factions in northern Iraq after a power struggle led to clashes last May. But he is the first to admit the Congress alone cannot force change in Baghdad.

"What is needed in addition to our activities and sanctions," said Mr Jalabi, 50, "is a popular-military push."

The failed revolt in the Kurdish north and the Shiite south showed that the Iraqi people could stand up to Saddam, he said. "But the uprising was ill-coordinated, did not have the right slogans and threatened too many people."

The diplomats say that as long as Saddam retains the loyalty of his 24,000-strong special forces, ousting him in the near future will be extremely difficult.

But the opposition leader remains undaunted. With Mozart's Requiem playing in the background, he said "Saddam's time is nearly over."

Official Views Decrease in Agricultural Output

JN3010114494 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 30, INA—More than 9 million doumums (a doumum equals 2500 square metres) of cultivated land in Iraq are effected with pests during 1992, a source at the Ministry of Agriculture has said recently.

The source was quoted by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily as telling that the number is increasing year after year as a result of shortages in pesticide that the Iraqi Government used to import from abroad and stopped now because of the UN-sponsored trade sanctions.

The source added that in Mosul, some 600 km north of Baghdad, known of its vast areas of arable land some 671,000 doumums were in 1992 inflected with insects that damaged agricultural crops in the province.

"Agricultural crops had highly effected by the spread of pest and were reduced to minimum levels," the source went on to say.

The source added that the destruction of fertilizers factories in the country by U.S. and allies bombardment in 1991 had also led to reduce their production and eventually hit Iraq's agricultural products since 1991.

Also Iraq can no more import agricultural machines because of the trade sanctions and the freezing of Iraq's assets in foreign banks.

The country cannot even import spare parts for the out-of-order machines.

It is not only agricultural products which have decreased but livestock production has also went done since the imposition of the sanctions, the source added.

As a result of the shortages in fodder, livestock production has decreased sharply, the source said adding that the ministry used to import fodder from abroad but because of freezing Iraq's assets abroad and the country is prevented from exporting its oil no fodder is imported now.

As a result, per capita consumption of red meat has decreased from 12 kilograms before 1990 annually to only 2.8 kg a year now, the source said.

Also the consumption of chicken meat per capita was 12.5 kg every year before the imposition of the sanctions while now it is 1.5 kg annually, the source said.

The number of livestock in the country is decreasing year after year since the imposition of the sanctions the source added.

In 1990 the year which the trade sanctions were imposed there were 8.631 million of sheep while the number was 6.300 million sheep in 1993. Cows also decreased from 2.521 million before 1990 to 2.120 million in 1993. Goats decreased from 2.351 million in 1990 to 2.50 million in 1993.

The U.S. has tried to hinder Iraq's agriculture following its aggression in 1991.

Many times the USA and its allies like Britain have sent their warplanes above Mosul's wheat-cultivated land, dropping tens of flare-bombs in order to burn wheat products in the province.

However, the Iraqi Government has launched a successful agricultural plan to compensate for the crops used to be imported before the sanctions.

The Ministry of Agriculture issued new regulations encouraging farmers to cultivate land with wheat and rice. Now Iraq depends mainly on its wheat products while before it used to import most of its wheat from countries like the USA and others.

The government now buys agricultural products from farmers paying them high prices and selling them to consumers with law [as received] prices.

There are many other measures taken by the government to encourage cultivation in the country.

More Than 3,500 Palestinians Return to Work

TA0311120794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More than 3,500 Palestinians left the territories for jobs in Israel today as the partial lifting of the closure continued. More than 1,500 workers entered Israel from Gaza. The Palestinian Authority there was issued some 4,000 permits, but because of bureaucratic problems their distribution has been held up. In Judaea and Samaria about 2,000 construction workers went to jobs in Israel. Officials hope all 4,000 permits for building and construction workers will be distributed by the end of the week.

Rabin: 'Unrelenting War' Only Way To Deal With Hamas

TA0211170994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today said the only way to deal with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is to wage an uncompromising war against it. This was Rabin's reaction to Minister Shahal's proposal to launch a dialogue with Hamas members. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal heard Rabin's remarks during a memorial service for Nahal Brigade soldiers who died in action:

[Begin Rabin recording] Hamas is the enemy of peace. The only way to deal with it is by means of an unrelenting war against it, against its ideology, and especially against the translation of this ideology into a despicable form of terrorism which is directed against citizens with the intent to kill both Israelis and the peace. The only one way to deal with Hamas is to wage an unrelenting war against it. [end recording]

Lubrani Denies Progress Made in Talks With Lebanon

TA0211195694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Nov 94

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, in the Tel Aviv studio, by Ya'aqov Eylon in the Jerusalem studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Eylon] What are the chances for negotiations between Israel and Lebanon?

[Lubrani] There are always chances. I do not believe, however, that anything special has taken place in the last two or three weeks....

[Eylon, interrupting] Nevertheless, Lebanese President al-Hirawi has said he is willing to consider discussions with Israel within the framework of a joint military committee.

[Lubrani] Yes, but if you had heard what Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' said following his visit to Lebanon yesterday you would understand that something had happened during this visit, namely, that the Syrians took the Lebanese to task.

[Eylon] Are we to understand that Lebanon has launched an independent foreign policy?

[Lubrani] I do not know. We are talking about nuances here. From al-Hirawi's statement we can glean, at most, that the Lebanese are somewhat more willing to allow for progress in the negotiations. His remarks did not constitute a revolutionary change in the situation. Now it transpires, however, that Lebanon continues to adhere to its demand that we fulfill UN Resolution 425....

[Eylon, interrupting] Which calls for an immediate and complete Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

[Lubrani] Yes, it calls for a complete withdrawal before anything else, and this is absolutely unacceptable to us.

Lebanon Talks Believed 'More Feasible Than Ever'

TA0211193194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Nov 94

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin would like to end the war of attrition in south Lebanon, and, to achieve that, he is ready to engage in practical negotiations with Beirut on the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the security zone.

In the course of the Washington talks with Lebanon nearly a year ago, Uri Lubrani relayed the main points of Rabin's proposal: The Lebanese Army will deploy north of the security zone, the terrorist organizations will be disbanded, quiet will be maintained during six months, and when all this is achieved, the IDF will withdraw. The Israeli General Staff prepared papers on the proposed interim arrangement with Lebanon.

After months of silence, Lebanon has finally responded. Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi said this week that he is willing to contemplate the establishment of a joint military committee and negotiations with Israel. Israeli sources say, however, that al-Hirawi failed to coordinate his statement with Damascus.

Lebanon is under pressure: Deals are clinched in Casablanca, excluding Lebanon, and Clinton arrives in the region and goes to Damascus to pay his respects to al-Asad, while Lebanon is still out of the circle. Yesterday Faruq al-Shar' came to Lebanon to apprise the Lebanese of their error, after which Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz issued a statement correcting the error. Yet despite that, it is believed in Jerusalem that practical Israeli-Lebanese negotiations are now more feasible than ever.

Gur Urges Knesset To Take Lebanese Offer Seriously

TA0311113494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The government seemed to be sending a strong affirmative signal to Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday, when Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur told the Knesset that Israel should take his latest negotiating offer seriously.

"Two days ago, there was a report in the name of the Lebanese prime minister or president regarding a certain willingness to assume responsibility for stopping terrorism," Gur said. "I deliberately put the stress on (stopping terrorism), without the accompanying conditions. I stress that this is not full peace and every one of us will be called upon to show courage of conscience and responsibility in considering whether to take up the challenge. I daresay I will recommend accepting it." [passage omitted]

Gur seemed to indicate a greater Israeli flexibility. He maintained the possibility of a security arrangement falling short of full peace.

"We will have to determine under what conditions we are ready for a settlement in Lebanon, even if it does not fulfill all (our) conditions," Gur said. "But should there be a commitment on the part of the Lebanese government to stop terrorism, each one of us will have to say whether he is willing to give this possibility a chance."

Rabin's Remarks on Jerusalem in Casablanca Viewed

TA0211141694 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 2 Nov 94 p 3

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Jerusalem Now—And Deliberately So"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's resolute remarks about the status of Jerusalem in the Casablanca conference evoked the criticism not only of the Palestinians but also of members of the Israeli delegation. Minister Shulamit Aloni was the only one who dared criticize Rabin openly, while others felt that angering "the Muslim world" at such a festive occasion was uncalled for.

Some tried to defend him. King Hassan had enraged him by calling Yasir 'Arafat "the president of the state of Palestine," while 'Arafat had upset him when he talked about a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. A reliable source who was with Rabin at the opening session of the conference disclosed that the portion of Rabin's speech referring to Jerusalem was no slip of the tongue but had been included in the original text of his speech. Some had advised Rabin to skip it, but he remained adamant. He saw fit to reiterate to "the Muslim world" that Jerusalem would remain united under Israel's exclusive sovereignty.

There may be room to wonder. After all, he had made the same declaration from the Knesset podium three days earlier in the presence of the U.S. President. So, why did he feel the need to repeat it in Casablanca and risk a crisis?

There can only be one explanation: Rabin has started feeling the danger looming on Jerusalem. The PLO is already trying, not unsuccessfully, to determine facts in Jerusalem. Orient House has become a sort of a PLO government compound in the eastern part of the city. Numerous other Palestinian institutions are scattered throughout the eastern section, and until the time for negotiations on the permanent status (including on the status of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Oslo agreement) comes in two years there will hardly be anything left to discuss. Jerusalem will not be united.

It is widely believed that if anything can undermine the peace agreement with the PLO it is the status of Jerusalem. 'Arafat and all other authoritative PLO spokesmen almost daily declare that East Jerusalem is the capital of the independent Palestinian state without which there will be no peace. If so, Rabin is right to try to settle this question now and not within two years wherever he goes, including Casablanca. Rabin has thus adopted the position of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who has been cautioning against the repartition of the city as a result of facts set on the ground and demanding to discuss "Jerusalem now."

Rabin does not hesitate to declare in public that he is not entirely pleased with the Oslo agreement. He believes that the agreement, particularly the chapter dealing with security, must be amended. Rabin has thus embraced the view of another Ehud, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, who has been cautioning against the threat posed to Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria upon the withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from the center of Arab cities.

The peace treaty with Jordan created a problem: Jordan no longer has a say in the West Bank. In the past the Labor Party sought to resolve the Palestinian problem within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian state. Now that Jordan is not part of such an option, the government faces a new reality which Yitzhaq Rabin, for one, did not seek: Israel's only partner in the West Bank is the PLO, which means turning the West Bank into an independent Palestinian state and establishing its capital in East Jerusalem. The PLO will not compromise for less than that.

Rabin scored quite a significant achievement. He spoke clearly about the future of Jerusalem before "the Muslim world," and the Casablanca conference did not collapse. The delegates did not applaud him but went about their regular business. 'Arafat will have to take note of the fact that if Rabin did not hesitate to show resolve in Casablanca he will probably not hesitate to do as much at the Erez checkpoint.

Rabin on Transporting Turkish Water to Region

TA0211194394 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 2 Nov 94

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made the following assessment to Turkish reporters in Jerusalem: Turkey has abundant water. I believe in regional peace with countries that were party to the Madrid Conference; or, at the very least, I believe in peace. The water in Turkey can be transported to Syria, Lebanon, and Israel via pipelines. The problem at this stage consists of the impossibility of including Syria and Lebanon in such a reasonable project. Significant investments by major world companies are needed to realize this project. Most of these companies are ready to undertake such an investment. The problem is that there is nothing to be done as long as a peace agreement is not signed with Syria and Lebanon. There is the question of how to transport the water to be used by Israel, by the Palestinians, and even by Jordan. The water can be transported in various ways, such as tankers or plastic canisters but how viable is this from an economic perspective?

British Tourist Killed in Flash Flood

TA0311054094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fierce storms and flash floods in the south yesterday took a steep toll. A British woman tourist was killed, another is missing, and 15 others were injured. The tragedy took place near the Taba border crossing to Egypt when a tourist bus on its way from Israel to Sinai was suddenly stalled by a massive flash flood. When the tourists saw the water around them rise to over one meter they panicked, breaking the bus windows in order to escape. Then, while standing on the ridge of the Taba wadi a huge wave swept the group nearly 400 meters into the torrent. Bedouin eyewitnesses along with Egyptian troops and soldiers from the multinational forces in the Sinai jumped into the water and rescued nearly all the tourists, except for two of them. Of the 15 people hospitalized, two are at Elat Yoseftal Hospital; the others are at an Egyptian medical clinic located at the Taba border crossing.

Rabin on 'Mistake' of Settlements in Arab Areas

TA0211123694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has disclosed that three battalions of troops are stationed permanently in Hebron to protect 450 settlers. Speaking in Jerusalem to a Young Leadership mission of the United Jewish Appeal, Rabin said twice as many Israeli troops are stationed in Judaea and Samaria as in south Lebanon.

On another issue, Rabin said today Syria and the PLO are not the enemies of peace. The threat to Israel, to moderate Arab regimes, and to Western democracy came from Islamic fundamentalism. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin said it was a major mistake of the Likud government to establish settlements of 30 to 80 families in areas densely populated by the Palestinians. As a result, he said, the bulk of the standing army is stationed in Judaea and Samaria for the purpose of protecting these settlers. In Rabin's view, these settlements contribute nothing to Israel's defense.

[Rabin] In Hebron, 80,000 to 100,000 Palestinians and 450 Israelis. And to protect them, we need three battalions to be there all the time. They don't protect us; we have to protect them.

[Katzenell] On the other hand, Rabin said, the government did give a higher priority to the settlements along the confrontation lines—meaning the Jordan Valley and the Golan Heights, and in the vicinity of Jerusalem, and also to Qiryat Arba' outside Hebron.

Turning to the problem of Islamic terrorism, Rabin said it is not Syria and the PLO who are the enemies of peace today, but militant Islamic fundamentalist movements throughout the world, financially supported by Iran. They threaten not only Israel and the peace process, but also moderate Arab regimes and Western democracy.

[Rabin] People are not aware how many Muslims there are in Europe, in the United States, how extreme Islamism has spread in the United States among the Muslims, or in Europe. If there is a threat to peace, and if there are enemies of peace of today, enemies of the Jewish people, enemies of democracy and Westernism, it's this ugly wave of extreme Islamic fundamentalist movements all over the world.

[Katzenell] For Israel, the problem was how to fight the terrorism of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and Hizballah while pressing forward with the peace process, Rabin said. If Israel were to allow their terrorist attacks to divert it from the peace process, this would be a prize for the terrorists. [end recording]

Investments in Jerusalem Arab Areas Considered

TA0211132094 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is considering pumping millions of shekels into Arab neighborhoods in Eastern Jerusalem to strengthen Israel's hold there.

The Ministerial Committee for Jerusalem Affairs last week discussed the urgent need for improving conditions for Arab residents, in light of recent inroads made by

Palestinian groups—including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—in the city, committee sources said.

A 13-page report reviewing those conditions and the activities by Palestinian groups was presented to the committee by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

"The lack of proper social services in Jerusalem's Arab sector has created a vacuum being filled by Palestinian groups, largely Hamas and Fatah," according to the report. "Those groups today operate a wide-range of leisure activities, training courses, and community activities.

"Hamas operates its own education system, centered on the Temple Mount, and which functions as a center for both youths and adults."

The Palestinian Authority is also working to establish an education system and set up a university in Eastern Jerusalem, as well as take control of Muslim religious institutions, the report said.

The bulk of the report, "Background Material for Discussion by the Ministerial Committee for Jerusalem Affairs," for the first time details specific needs in the Arab sector.

Until now, the problems were well-known, but no in-depth study was carried out to determine what steps were needed to alleviate them, municipal sources said.

The committee agreed to consider the needs of Jerusalem's many Arab residents and will meet soon to decide what steps it should take to begin to meet them, committee sources said.

"A great number of (Arab families) suffer from serious economic problems," the report stated. "The level of physical infrastructure and social services in the non-Jewish neighborhoods is... far below that of Jewish neighborhoods."

The Arab sector lacks some 12Okm of roads, requiring NIS [new Israeli shekels] 2OO million for their construction, according to the report. NIS 52.3 million is needed to complete and improve east Jerusalem's water system; another NIS 79 million is needed for sewage and drainage systems.

Other major problems listed are "severe poverty, housing shortage, the lack of basic services for children, youth, and the elderly."

Many of the problems stem from a failure to pass zoning plans for most Arab neighborhoods, making it difficult to begin work on infrastructure. According to the report, only 13 of the city's about 3O Arab neighborhoods have zoning plans.

"The municipality alone cannot handle the great financial burden" needed to correct the situation, and "the cooperation of government ministries is required," the report stated.

Jerusalem's Arab Population Said Growing Steadily

TA0111122494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem's Arab population continues to grow faster than its Jewish one, according to a municipality report obtained yesterday by THE JERUSALEM POST.

Non-Jews, mainly Arabs, made up some 28.3 percent of Jerusalem residents at the end of 1993, the report stated. In 1992, the figure for non-Jews was 27.9 percent.

The Arab population has grown slowly but steadily in relation to the Jewish population since the city's reunification. In 1967, 74.2 percent of the population was Jewish and 25.8 percent non-Jewish, compared to 71.7 percent and 28.3 percent in 1993.

The report, "An Update on 1993 Population Figures For Use in Planning," was compiled by the municipality's Strategic Planning Department, and given to City Hall last week.

The report appeared to support last year's forecast by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies that by 2010, Arabs would make up some 31 percent of the city's population.

The report did not address specific reasons the Arab population was growing faster than the Jewish population.

It noted, however, that "the last decade has been characterized by negative migration of the (Jewish) population."

"In 1993, the city lost more than 6,000 (Jewish) residents (compared to 5,368 in 1992) to other communities in the country," it stated.

The city's population at the end of 1993 was 567,147, some 32 percent higher than in 1990, according to the report.

Prince Hasan Cited on Jerusalem, Economic Reform

JN0311084894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Nov 94 pp 1, 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca (Agencies)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said Tuesday [1 November] Jordan would hand over Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem to the Palestinians when an agreement on the city's final status is reached.

"In the final status, when responsibility is transferred in full to the Palestinians, this responsibility (for the sites) will be transferred in full to those concerned," Crown Prince Hasan told a news conference at the Casablanca economic conference.

"We cannot accept that we would one day have to relinquish the Arab and Muslim identity except to an Arab Palestinian identity and ...not to the Israeli occupier," Prince Hasan said.

Under the Declaration of Principles signed in last year, the talks on Jerusalem are to start in May 1996, two years after the launch of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

When the negotiations on Jerusalem have ended, "we promise to hand over trusteeship of the holy sites to the Palestinian Authority," Crown Prince Hasan said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation criticised last week's Jordan-Israel peace treaty for recognising Jordan's special role in the holy sites in East Jerusalem, which Palestinians want as the capital of a future state.

"The hardening of Palestinian positions on this question must stop because the Palestinians signed the accord which call for negotiations on the status of Jerusalem to begin in 1996," the Crown Prince said.

He said Jordan was determined "to end this debate" which should not have started.

"The holy sites in Jerusalem are neglected and Israel refuses to recognise Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, while allowing Jordanian trusteeship over them," he added.

"It was therefore our duty to continue to manage these sites," he said.

"We will not leave to Israel the question of caring for or sovereignty over the holy sites but we will hand over this trust to a Palestinian Arab authority," the Crown Prince stressed.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser on Jerusalem, Faysal al-Husayni, said he welcomed the Crown Prince's remarks.

"I salute Crown Prince Hasan for his clarification," Mr. al-Husayni told Reuters. But he said the clause on Jordan's supervisory role in Jerusalem should never have been in the treaty in the first place.

In reply to a question on the nature of the relationship between Jordan and the PLO-led Palestine National Authority (PNA), Prince Hasan said Jordan and the Palestinians had accomplished joint economic achievements but stressed that there can be no sound projects without sound planing. He also stressed the need for the Palestinians to create their national institutions to take care of joint schemes. Prince Hasan emphasised the importance of achieving Jordanian-Palestinian integration on an equitable basis.

Referring to economic development of the Middle East and North Africa, Prince Hasan voiced hope that a projected regional development bank or fund would serve as a regional institution and not follow the pattern of the already existing financial institutions including the World Bank.

"When we discuss economic reform in the Arab region we recall our dealing with the World Bank, which is mainly based on the principle of the carrot and the stick," added Prince Hasan.

"While contemplating the creation of regional institutions, we ought to remember our experiences with such institutions as the International Monetary Fund and the OPEC investment fund," the prince added.

Referring to a planned follow-up economic conference to be held in Amman next year, Prince Hasan said the conference's secretariat would focus attention on making the conference serve as a qualitative forum which would dedicate its deliberations to the basic issues related to trade and investment.

When Amman played host to an economic summit meeting in 1980 it was at the government and political level of the Arab World, "but we are now talking about a multinational summit that would tackle different specialisations and interests of concern both to private as well as public sectors," added Prince Hasan.

Asked to comment on reports that Saudi Arabia had expressed reservations about the establishment of the Middle East development fund, Prince Hasan said he was not aware of the contents of the Saudi statement. But, he added, such reservation could be for the sake of giving time for consideration.

"We share Saudi Arabia's views in this matter because the bank is not a target in itself and it would take experts some time to work out details which could be presented to next year's Amman economic summit," Prince Hasan said.

Prince Hasan said that he reached agreement with the U.S. Administrations and European and other international organisations on basic principles. These he said, included agreement that the industrialised nations should play a central role in the projected Middle East fund or bank, helping the countries of the region to merge economically and that any merger of economies should mainly be of benefit to the weaker nations.

He said that a development bank would help achieve an economic balance in the region.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, he said, helped Jordan regain full rights in its lands and water resources.

But, he said, he was against the idea of equating what is termed as subjugation with the term of normalisation of relations.

"These two terms are not synonymous and indeed a meeting between Israeli and Jordanian business people have helped to break the ice while another meeting between scientists was dedicated to topics related to industry and technology benefiting both sides," he said.

Prince Hasan voiced Jordan's commitment to supporting the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, noting that the Palestinians and Jordanians had gone to the Madrid conference under one umbrella.

"We have reached economic agreements, and we are waiting for their official endorsement by the Palestinian side," said the prince, who stressed the need for integrated economic schemes for the West Bank as well as for Jordan.

House Committee Recommends Endorsement of Treaty

JN0311100294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday [2 November] recommended that the legislature endorse the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty as eight opposition parties announced steps to form an alliance of Islamic and pan-Arab groups to fight it.

President of the Foreign Affairs Committee 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the majority of the 23-member panel supported the recommendation to endorse the peace treaty while the three Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies represented on it opposed it.

Deputies will begin their debate of the treaty, which the government presented to the House as a draft law early this week, on Saturday and all indications are the majority of lawmakers will support it.

The treaty will go into effect as law after Parliament ratifies it and His Majesty King Husayn signs it.

"The committee believes the treaty is the best that could have been achieved in light of what was possible" even though it is not the "ideal accord that we would aspire to," Mr. al-Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES.

In its four-day debate of the treaty, the committee did not look at "its work as a attempt to differentiate between those who are with the country and those who are against it because there is no doubt that we are all with the country and its leadership as evidenced by our presence at Parliament," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

He said the committee sees in the implementation of the peace treaty the beginning of a new era in which challenges could be greater than those which characterised the era that the treaty will end.

That, he said, calls for abandoning "old methods that never matured and adopting new ones that can enable us to confront the new challenges."

"The trust that the people put in us requires that we take up the new challenges with all the courage that loyalty to the country, its people and leadership dictates," even though the new era would shake off many concepts with which the present generation has lived, said the influential member of the National Democratic Coalition and former minister.

The committee, Mr. al-Kabariti said, believes that the country cannot stop in the middle of the new road and look back because the only way is to move forward and "capture the future."

Meanwhile, eight political parties announced steps to create "the broadest democratic alliance of Islamist and pan-Arab forces" in order to "confront peace, submission and normalisation."

At a press conference held at the offices of the IAF and headed by secretary general of the Jordan Democratic Socialist Party, 'Isa Madanat, the opposition groups said they were preparing for a "national popular conference" to organise opposition to peace with Israel. They said the conference could take place within a month.

The eight parties demanded that the government hold a plebiscite "so that people can say their word on the peace treaty and everybody has a chance to express their views."

They demanded that the plebiscite be conducted under the supervision of the judiciary.

The opposition groups reiterated their vow to fight the peace treaty, which the Kingdom signed with Israel Oct. 26, with all available democratic and legal means and called on lawmakers to respect the "wishes of the people" who elected them and reject the treaty. Describing the accord as "surrender to the conditions of the Zionist occupation," the opposition eight also attacked the treaty for allegedly failing to realise Jordanian rights and abandoning the decisions of the international legitimacy on Jerusalem and refugees.

They reiterated criticism that the accord reduces the issue of Jerusalem to sovereignty over religious shrines and calls for settling refugees and displaced persons in their countries of residence instead of giving them their right to repatriation.

"While announcing our rejection of the treaty, as we rejected the Oslo deal, we demand that the government put an end to its oppressive policies and end its monopoly of the official media because these media belong to the people," the opposition eight said in a statement read out at the beginning of the conference. They claimed the government was encroaching on their democratic right to express opposition to the treaty.

The opposition has claimed the majority of the people oppose peace with Israel but has thus far failed to prove any evidence to its claim.

Asked about the number of their followers whom they said oppose the treaty, spokesmen of the parties at the conference said what counts is their "historic struggle and presence" in the Kingdom.

"Numbers are not the most important thing," Mr. Madanat said.

House Approves Peace Treaty

JN0211193294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Affairs Committee at the House of Representatives this evening approved by majority vote the treaty concluded between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of the State of Israel, presented to the House as a draft law.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, the committee's president, said that the treaty draft law and the committee's report and recommendations submitted to the House have been approved by the majority of the committee members. Three out of 23 members objected to the draft law. He added that during the morning session, it was agreed to present the final formula of the committee's report during the evening session. He indicated that the committee's report covered all topics that were raised over the past three days, and that the report was approved during the evening session.

Deputy al-Kabariti said that the committee's recommendation that the House approve the treaty has taken into consideration all the facts and information developed by the committee.

Deputy all-Kabariti added: During our discussion of the referred draft law, our intention was not to sort out who stands by this homeland and who stands against it. Certainly, everyone of us stands by the homeland and its leader, His Majesty King Husayn. Otherwise, we would not have come to meet in this house of the nation in the first place.

Al-Kabariti said: While appreciating and valuing the efforts, efficiency, and loyalty of the Jordanian negotiating team, we are absolutely certain that this team is loyal to this homeland and concerned about our rights and sovereignty. Sincerely and honestly, we believe that what the Jordanian negotiator has arrived at was up to the level of national responsibility.

Deputy al-Kabariti indicated that approving the treaty draft law ends a long phase in the life of our homeland and nation. The implementation of this treaty, he noted, will mean that we will enter a new phase with likely more complicated challenges, something which requires that old, inefficient methods be renounced, and that developed methods be adopted, so that we can be up to the expectations of the leader of our homeland, His Majesty King Husayn, and our coming generations, in confronting challenges. He said: Undoubtedly, this move in our life will shake many concepts on which our generation has been raised. However, to be up to our people's confidence in us as leading pioneers, this necessitates that we face up to this challenge bravely and as dictated by our loyalty to his majesty the king and the homeland and by the requirements of the current phase. He added: We are now at the middle of a road. We cannot stop halfway and look back. To have a place in the future, there is other way but to proceed and go to the end of the road. We know that for many of us, the question is one of choosing one of hard and bitter options. Aware of our duty and national responsibilities, and based on all that I have said, the committee will recommend that the House approve the draft law on endorsing the peace treaty between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of the State of Israel.

[Islamic Action Front] Deputies Hamzah Mansur, Dr. Muhammad al-Hajj, and Dr. Bassam al-'Umush noted their objection to the committee's decision.

Deputy Abu-Zant Recounts Mosque Incident

JN3110104094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Oct 94 p 30

[Report by Ahmad al-Shuruf]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Deputy Shaykh 'Abd-a-Mun'im Abu-Zant has given his account of the regrettable incidents which occurred during last Friday's prayers in the Abu-Hurayrah Mosque in Hayy Nazzal. In a statement to AL-DUSTUR at the King Husayn Medical Center yesterday, Shaykh Abu-Zant said that he has been delivering Friday sermons at the Abu-Hurayrah Mosque since 1989 without payment, in accordance with a ministerial decision. He added that five years have passed without any problem. He said that even amid the events of the Gulf war, the mosque, which was always crowded with worshipers, was very calm, noting that approximately 250,000 dinars were collected from the poor worshipers as donations for the fraternal Iraqi people. He said that approximately 5,000 men and 500 women usually attend Friday prayers at this mosque.

Shaykh Abu-Zant added: Last Thursday, I was surprised when my wife told me that the Ministry of Awqaf had telephoned to inform me that I was not allowed to deliver the sermon. My answer was: We are not slaves in the ranch of the Ministry of Awqaf. It should not have addressed me in this way. They should have sent me an official letter on this decision. However, they feared that an official letter would provide evidence to sue them.

Abu-Zant said: On Friday, 28 October, I headed for the mosque to deliver the sermon. I ascended the pulpit one minute after the call to prayer was raised to prevent any other preacher from delivering the sermon and to avoid a riot in the mosque. If the other preacher had ascended the pulpit while I was there the worshipers would have brought him down and an all-out riot would have occurred, thereby violating the sanctity of the mosque.

Shaykh Abu-Zant said: As I stood in the pulpit I was followed by a civilian bearded man who rudely said: O shaykh, get down and let somebody else give the sermon. I told him: You get down. We do not want a riot. Tell those who sent you that they must apply the Preaching and Guidance Law. He added that the worshipers noticed what was taking place so they began to chant the slogans of Allahu Akbar [God is great]. Meanwhile, other civilians, who were shouting loudly and attacking the pulpit to get me down, clashed with the worshipers.

He added: Despite the confusion, I delivered a brief sermon and we performed our prayers. After the prayers, I told worshipers: The mosque is surrounded and to avoid bloodshed and maintain security in Jordan, the land of mobilization and steadfastness, I urge you to stay inside the mosque to avoid clashes. Indeed, the thousands of worshipers remained calm.

Some worshipers came to me and said some worshipers had left without any problem. So, I asked the worshipers to go home, and they did.

Abu-Zant added: As soon as I left the mosque, a group of people took me aside and began beating me on the head with clubs until I started bleeding. They threw me to the ground and started kicking me. A citizen came to receive the blows instead of me. They hit him on the head and he is now being treated in hospital.

Some citizens came to help me, but the attackers threatened them with weapons. One of the attackers started beating me on the head with a thick club, and then they kicked and beat me.

Afterwards, the police put me in a police car even though there was an ambulance at the scene. I pleaded with them to take me in the ambulance, but they refused although there was blood all over my clothes, the policeman's clothes, and the police car. They then took me to the King Husayn Medical Center for treatment.

Speaking about the injuries he sustained, Shaykh Abu-Zant said: They are serious wounds that could have been fatal. I sustained eight injuries. These include two head wounds; one was seven centimeters long that required eight stitches and the other was six centimeters long that needed seven stitches. This is in addition to a wound to the right leg that required seven stitches as well as two wounds to the shoulders, one under the right ear, and bruises to the left wrist and right elbow.

Commenting on what happened, Shaykh Abu-Zant said: Neither the police nor anyone else tried to confront this premeditated attempt to assassinate me.

The policemen stood by and watched the attackers beat me up without intervening, while they would have intervened if it had been a rabbit or donkey being beaten or if a drunken man was being beaten in the street and bleeding. However, the police did not give me the treatment they would have given a rabbit or a drunk.

Deputy Abu-Zant said: Officials announced that a group of citizens beat me. If we assume so, then why did the public security men not intervene to protect me?

Besides, the interior minister's statement that non-Jordanian individuals took part in the assault is in itself a condemnation for not defending me as a deputy in the Jordanian Parliament.

PLO's 'Atallah 'Atallah Returns to Amman

JN2910143794 Amman AL-AHALI in Arabic
27 Oct 94 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political sources have reported that 'Atallah 'Atallah, alias Abu-al-Za'im, has returned to and settled in Amman at the invitation of the Jordanian Government. Abu-al-Za'im, who split from Fatah Movement after 1983 and formed what was called the Corrective Movement, which was based in Amman at the time, has been residing in Egypt for years. The Egyptian authorities tried to restore relations between Abu-al-Za'im, who is also supported by Saudi Arabia, and Yasir 'Arafat. They also nominated him for security positions within the self-rule authority. However, 'Arafat asked them to drop the issue until later.

The sources say that Abu-al-Za'im's return to Amman is a result of the current state of relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides and the close ties Abu-al-Za'im has to Jordan.

Syria's al-Shar' Meets With al-Hirawi, Departs

JN0111203494 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the B'abda Palace today. The meeting was attended by Nabih Birri, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; Rafiq al-Hariri, the prime minister; and Faris Buwayz, the foreign minister. Al-Shar' conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother Ilyas al-Hirwai dealing with the results of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Damascus. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' returned to Damascus after a brief visit to Lebanon. He was seen off at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and a number of senior Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-Shar' arrived in Beirut this morning. He was received at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Al-Hariri on Peace, Rejects Israel's 'Hegemony'

NC0311070194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cabinet met last night and discussed the Israeli rejection of Security Council Resolution 425.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri described the session as a good one. He stressed that peace will not come at the expense of Lebanon, which is ready for a settlement and achieving part of the solution in the region. He stressed that the proposed exceptional budget and the 10-year development plan aim to restore the country to normal and go along with the peace process, because Israel is Lebanon's main competitor in the region.

He expressed satisfaction with the improved conditions in Lebanon and stressed that no one can bypass Lebanon in the peaceful settlement, especially as Lebanon is saying that it is ready for the settlement and that if there is a comprehensive solution in the region, then we are part of it.

Noting that the Cabinet approved an urgent draft law allocating $1.290 billion to build two electricity plants in al-Zahrani and al-Baddawi, Prime Minister al-Hariri discussed the peace process in the region and the progress made in light of U.S. talk about this progress. He said: The ball is in Israel's court now. Israel must decide what it wants to do if it wants to live in peace in the region. I believe the opportunity is very propitious. If it wants to be a country exercising hegemony over the region, then I believe that peace will, in this case, be out of reach. No one will accept Israel's hegemony over the region. He added: We met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and we received information from here and there. It is very clear that the Americans want to see a settlement and that Syria, the Arabs, and Lebanon also want a settlement.

Samahah on Rabin's Response to Resolution 425

NC0211142894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Nov 94

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah on remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on UN Security Council Resolution 425; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not new for Israel's rulers not to recognize the United Nations, of which Israel is a member, or UN resolutions, especially 425. However, we have confidence in ourselves, confidence in our homeland's unity, and confidence in our resistance to the occupation by our kinsfolk in the south. We will strengthen this resistance against the Zionist invasion, whether it is in the form of a military occupation or cultural invasion. We will carry out this resistance by relying on our rights and also on the UN resolutions that have been adopted. Part of the resolutions were implemented when the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] was deployed in the south as part of the implementation of the first phase of Resolution 425. We also rely on our Arab heritage and our deep understanding with Syria on everything relating to a just and permanent solution of the Middle East crisis based on the Madrid formula and the implementation of UN resolutions, specifically Resolution 425, in the case of Lebanon, and Resolutions 242 and 338, for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Hence, we do not expect Rabin to recognize Resolution 425, because the day he recognizes it, he will implement it. Since the resolution was issued, Israel has not implemented it. However, if Rabin and those Arabs and non-Arabs who cooperated with him through the 17 May [1983] accord [between Lebanon and Israel] believe that they can place traps at this stage for the Lebanese track and isolate it as they have isolated other tracks, turning Lebanon into a new suburb of Israel, our confidence in ourselves, our decisions, and our domestic unity on Arab and Lebanese rights and with Syria will stand as a formidable block against such designs. We are able to uphold the UN resolution, as was clearly shown last week's summit between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Clinton during his visit to Damascus. We are able to uphold the decision to make peace and consequently recover our rights, end the occupation of our land, restore our sovereignty, and arrive at a just and comprehensive peace through the Madrid formula and the land-for-peace formula.

Lebanese Forces Reiterates Loyalty to Ja'Ja'

MM0211102394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "'Forces' in Diaspora Confirms Loyalty to Ja'ja'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The "(outlawed) Lebanese Forces [LF] Committee [Hay'at] in the Diaspora" has issued the following statement: "In implementation of the resolutions of the Washington founding meeting, and in completion of the various moves, the LF Committee in the Diaspora held a series of meetings between 28 and 31 October, during which meetings were held with specialists in various fields and with two general assemblies for LF members and their friends in both London and Paris. They were attended by LF officials in North America, South America, Britain, France, Ireland, Australia, Belgium, and Switzerland. The meetings discussed the general political situation in Lebanon in the light of regional changes, the internal and external organizational situation, and the issue of Dr. Samir Ja'ja's arrest. And the committee stressed the following:

"1. The committee confirms its loyalty to and appreciation for leader Dr. Samir Ja'ja', the beacon of freedom, which has been suppressed.

"2. The committee urges an end to political and security interference in the judicial system, and it demands that open and impartial sessions be held by the judicial council, and that the foreign observers—politicians, diplomats, jurists, and international human right organizations—who are going to attend the sessions should not be obstructed.

"3. The committee refuses the marginalization of the Christian role in Lebanon and the policy of keeping it away from political decisionmaking. And it draws attention to the danger to the entire homeland of harming Christian spiritual and political leaders.

"4. The committee stresses its adherence to the constants and principles on which the LF was established, and its adherence to Lebanon's sovereignty and freedom, the independence of the judiciary, and the protection of human rights. And it is determined to continue its policy aimed at preventing the formulas of hegemony and subservience, refusing to allow the peace coming to the region to be established at the homeland's expense.

"5. The committee conveys its respect and appreciation for Patriarch Nasralah Butrus Sfayr and his resolute patriotic stands.

"6. The committee pledges to the comrades and all the Lebanese people to continue to work in Lebanon and in the diaspora for the sake of upholding right and establishing the truth in full in Lebanon.

"And specialized committees were formed to continue contacts with the states concerned with the Lebanese file. And a number of resolutions were adopted."

Sufayr on Lebanon, Israeli Peace Agreement

MM0111162094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Sufayr: No Disagreement With 'Awn; There Is a Problem With Syria"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sufayr said yesterday that "any disregard for Lebanon's role, sacrifice of the foundations of its independence and sovereignty, or undermining of its entity would not be in the interest of peace in Lebanon or the entire Middle East region."

Sufayr said that the purpose of his visit to Paris and his meetings with senior French officials was to "request French support and backing for the restoration of Lebanon's free decisionmaking, particularly as the two countries (France and Lebanon) are joined by friendship based on values and history."

He called on France to use its European and international influence in favor of the implementation of the UN resolutions "which have remained mere ink on paper." The Maronite patriarch, who was talking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, said that Pope John Paul's decision to make him a cardinal was "a kind gesture toward Lebanon and an expression of appreciation for the Maronite church there."

Describing the situation in Lebanon, Sufayr said that Lebanon "has been hindered and robbed of its national will." [passage omitted]

The cardinal/patriarch said he feared that the region's peace would be at Lebanon's expense. He reaffirmed the need to take Lebanon's higher interests into consideration and not to marginalize it, and the need for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from all Lebanese territory.

Sufayr denied differences between him and [former Prime Minister] Michel 'Awn. He said "there is understanding between us and him." That was in reference to the questions raised about obstacles standing in the way of a meeting between them in Paris.

On relations with Syria, Sufayr said : "We are all for the establishment of the best relations with Damascus, but there is a problem which must be solved between Lebanon and Syria. That problem is the presence of 40,000 Syrian soldiers on Lebanese territory. That gives us the feeling that we are not independent and not masters on our own land."

He attributed the fact that the Lebanese abroad are not rushing back to their homeland to the general feeling that "the Lebanese do not have the final say." That is in addition to the acute economic and political crisis in the country.

Sufayr is on an official visit to Paris lasting until next Thursday. His arrival in the French capital coincided with his appointment as cardinal by the Pope.

Sufayr also met with a number of Lebanese opposition leaders in exile including former President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih.

Asked, after the meeting, what he thought of President al-Hirawi's proposal about withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon within a period of six months, he replied: "My position is clear and frank. I am against any peace agreement with Israel before it withdraws on the terms I stated previously. I have my doubts about peace but if there is going to be peace, then I am against Lebanon signing a peace [agreement] with Israel at the same time as Syria. Lebanon should be the last Arab state to sign peace after its terms are fulfilled, including compensation for the human and material losses resulting from the Israeli aggression, especially when the Israeli Army stormed Beirut." [passage omitted]

Further on al-Asad Meeting With Russia's Kozyrev

JN0211174194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the delegation accompanying him at the People's Palace at 1330 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Russian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Mr. Kozyrev conveyed to the president a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin that deals with the peace process in the Middle East and bilateral relations. The two sides discussed the peace process. Minister Kozyrev expressed Russia's appreciation of Syria's constructive role regarding the issue of peace. [passage omitted]

Russian Foreign Minister Departs

JN0211174694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this evening after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Russian ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff.

Al-Shar' Cites 'Progress' in Talks

JN0211200594 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the delegation accompanying him at the People's Palace at 1330 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Russian ambassador in Damascus Viktor Gogitidze attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Before leaving Damascus, Mr. Kozyrev made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said: Today, I conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from President Boris Yeltsin. I also held talks with his excellency and with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during which I felt that Syria is serious in pushing the peace process forward.

Kozyrev added that just and comprehensive peace will not be realized in the region without progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and without Syria's active and effective role. He said the peace process would not be balanced and effective without an active role by the Russian Federation.

Kozyrev said that traditional relations of friendship that bind the Syrian and Russian peoples will be strengthened in the near future and will witness a great and active promotion in various fields in implementation of the desire of the presidents of the two countries and their conviction in strengthening and promoting links and relations between Syria and Russia and developing coordination regarding the Middle East peace process.

Answering a question on relations between Syria and Russia, Kozyrev said: We attach political importance to bilateral relations and there is wide scope for cooperation between the two countries. The leaderships will lend political weight to activating and strengthening these relations.

For his part, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' answered questions by reporters accompanying Mr. Kozyrev. Answering a question on what Russia could do to push the peace process forward, al-Shar' said: Russia participates in the peace process in addition to the United States, and it can revitalize its role in this process. We welcome the Russian role to push the peace process forward and realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Al-Shar' added: We discussed with Mr. Kozyrev various aspects of progress in the peace process so far and we are looking forward to continuing our contacts.

Asked about the type of progress in peace he is talking about, al-Shar' said: U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Damascus and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and his statements on his way back to Washington demonstrate that progress has been made. We hope this progress will become tangible.

The minister said: Clinton's visit to Syria, the visit to Damascus by the European troika, as well as Mr. Kozyrev's visit and the meeting which will be held in Brussels at the end of this month between Syria and the European Council states reflect international interest in realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. As Mr. Kozyrev has just said, there is special weight for Syria in realizing this peace.

Answering a question on issues of bilateral cooperation that have been discussed by the two countries, al-Shar' said: As you are aware, there are relations encompassing various domains. We in Syria are looking forward to seeing these relations strong and deep in the joint interest of the two countries and in order to promote the peace process.

The Russian foreign minister and his delegation left Damascus this evening after a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at the Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Russian ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Adviser Expresses Satisfaction With Peace Deal

MS0311103294 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 3 Nov 94 p 16

[Report by Robert Fisk: "Syria Happy With US Peace Pledge"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus—Despite the flurry of critical reports that followed President Bill Clinton's visit to Damascus last week, Syrian officials are expressing nothing but satisfaction at the US President's meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad.

They insist that Mr Clinton's assurances to the Syrian leader have given them confidence that a future peace deal with Israel will be both comprehensive and fair. Syria's government-controlled press have awarded the American President high marks for his encouragement and "even-handedness". In an interview with The Independent, Muhammad Salman, the Minister of Information and a close adviser to the Syrian President, said there was mutual understanding between the two governments that security arrangements must be "balanced" between Israel and Syria when Israel completes its military withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"The Israelis want their security to be at the expense of the Syrian side," he said. "This is what made Mr Clinton say that the security arrangements should be balanced on both sides, that the demilitarised zone on both sides (of the 1967 frontier) should be equal. This is also what led President al-Asad to make the same point."

Mr Salman also believed that the US would provide the cast-iron guarantees to any peace treaty that Syria is demanding. "Syria attended the Madrid conference in 1991 at the US invitation—that a peace was to be comprehensive and based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied land. President Bush's government said then that it would be an 'honest broker' at all negotiations and when President Clinton came to power, he wanted to be a 'partner'—this was a development in the American position. As a partner, you have to be involved in every paragraph (of a peace agreement). That's the mutual understanding between the Syrian and American sides. We many times asked the Europeans to play the role of partner but Israel always wanted to refuse them a role."

If much of the Arab world regards Mr Clinton's administration as one of the most pro-Israeli in a generation, Mr Salman refuses to accept this—even though the US president's Middle East national security adviser, Martin Indyck, is a former Israeli lobbyist. "We know the situation of the American administration," Mr Salman said. "We know this Martin and others in the administration who are sympathetic to Israel—but at the same time, we deal with the American government, not with specific persons in the administration.

Mr Salman condemned American reporting of the Clinton visit, and warned that "as long as Israel remains on Arab lands, this region will be the top of a volcano—things will be very costly if a just and comprehensive peace is not achieved in the whole of the region." A disengagement force on Golan, he added, would have to be under UN control.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi of Lebanon suggested in an Egyptian press interview this week that his country might form a joint committee with Israel to discuss the latter's withdrawal from the south of the country if Israel made a commitment to pull its troops out of the region. The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, described the offer as "interesting" but rejected Lebanon's condition of an Israeli promise of withdrawal.

Radio Views Damascus Summit, Israeli Positions

JN0311083294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The U.S. President only came to Syria because he was fully convinced of its importance and its sincerity in calling for a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This conclusion by President Clinton is the result of dealing with the issue of peace in this region. The same conclusion has been drawn by many other politicians around the world, along with all realistic observers who are not blinded by bias or prejudice.

AL-BA'TH explains: All those who love peace in the world welcomed President Clinton's visit to Damascus and pinned high hopes on it. The news conference held by the U.S. President was watched by millions of people throughout the world and created a feeling of optimism when he indicated his visit to Syria had achieved a breakthrough on the Syrian track. Clinton added that he sensed President Hafiz al-Asad's great concern and Syria's high credibility in dealing with the issue of peace. When President Clinton declared this, the peace-lovers welcomed and blessed his mission and wished him success.

The paper adds: The only parties that was frustrated and unbalanced by the visit were the anti-peace circles in Israel, who expressed their malice and spit out their black venom in order to dash the hopes and optimism that surfaced during the Damascus summit. AL-BA'TH believes that these Israeli circles do not want the peace process to succeed and that they are actually waging a direct war on this process to prevent the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace and to continue the path of war, aggression, expansion, and annexation.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: Syria has always honored its promises and has fulfilled its commitments toward the peace process since its inception. The U.S. President is convinced that Damascus has made great strides in this process and in intercepting those who are evading both this process and its objective requirements. The world is now convinced that the Syrian position is right.

Discussing the same issue, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: No doubt, the Damascus summit held between President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton has clearly shown the positive Syrian position, which calls for a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the UN resolutions and the principles of international legitimacy. This summit has also revealed to the whole world that Damascus adheres to the option of peace, which it adopted out of firm conviction and belief, and that Damascus is the party making honest peace proposals and seriously and sincerely seeking peace. Peace is an objective that is sought by all mankind.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Israelis, however, replied to Syria's call for peace by taking an even more intransigent and provocative position. They were not content with just giving their propaganda tools a free hand to slander Syria and cast doubt on its peace intentions, they also reiterated that they will not withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines or remove the settlements. They said they will only agree on small and limited withdrawals. Moreover, Yitzhaq Rabin even said Resolution 425, which calls for withdrawal from southern Lebanon, does not exist. Rabin arrogantly said he does not recognize such a resolution.

AL-THAWRAH continues: The U.S. Administration, which frequently stressed its commitment to achieving a just and comprehensive peace, now has a full picture of the obstacles impeding the peace process and about what should be done to remove them. Most of these obstacles are placed by Israel.

Concluding, **AL-THAWRAH** says: We will await the next U.S. move declared by President Clinton to see whether Israel will continue its current intransigent positions or ultimately yield to the will of peace.

Paper Reacts to Rabin Remarks on Resolution 425

JN0211090594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Nov 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary under the headline "International Resolutions Cannot Be Annulled by Rabin's Decisions," the newspaper **AL-BA'TH** writes on Rabin's latest innovations. It says: He rejects Resolution 425 and considers it null and void. This stand, which lacks seriousness, is proof of Israel's intransigence and refusal to abide by the peace initiative at the same time the world is testifying to Syria's seriousness about achieving peace. The U.S. Administration is committed to achieving this objective to realize security and stability in the region.

AL-BA'TH says: Neither Rabin, nor any member of his government, regardless of what they say or do, can annul a resolution issued by the UN Security Council, which represents international legitimacy. This resolution was a reply to the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories. More than 10 years ago, this resolution called for an immediate withdrawal from these occupied territories.

AL-BA'TH notes that Israel has failed to achieve its objectives as a result of the heroic steadfastness of the citizens in southern Lebanon. Rabin, who is now trying to abrogate Resolution 425, has given the world additional proof of his rejection of peace.

Concluding, **AL-BA'TH** says: Perhaps by rejecting this resolution, Rabin wanted to say that he does not recognize the inseparability of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process. However, the inseparability of these two tracks will not be affected by others' stands. Syria, which seeks to restore Arab rights, considers the withdrawal from southern Lebanon no less important than the withdrawal from the Golan.

Travel Offices Closed for Meeting With Israelis

*JN0211154794 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
31 Oct 94 p 5*

[Report by Ibrahim al-Humaydi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—**AL-WASAT** has learned that the Syrian Ministry of Tourism has closed two travel and tourism offices for taking part in the recent Cairo meeting of the World Association of Travel Agencies (ASTA) in which Israeli delegations took part. The two travel offices failed to coordinate with the Syrian tourism authorities.

Sources at the Association of Travel Agencies told **AL-WASAT** that the association proposed to the ministry that the Al-Sharq al-Awsat and al-Fajr offices be closed because of their participation in a meeting attended by Israelis, considering the meeting a form of multilateral negotiations boycotted by Syria and Lebanon.

This recent move by the Syrian Government is a reaffirmation of Damascus' commitment to boycotting the multilateral meetings. This refutes the statements made to **AL-WASAT** by U.S. diplomatic sources that it has been "agreed" between Damascus and Washington that Damascus will start sending representatives to meetings of multilateral negotiations "within the framework of confidence building measurers between Syria and Israel to underline the Syrians' desire for peace."

'Abd-al-Razzaq Qutayni, Syrian assistant minister of tourism, told **AL-WASAT** that the ministry instructed the association not to take part in the meetings because of the presence of Israelis. "Having decided not to take part in the meeting, the association informed six offices with ASTA membership of its decision," Qutayni said. He added that the representatives of the al-Sharq al-Awsat and al-Fajr offices traveled to Cairo "without coordination with us, something which is considered a violation of previous guidance which they know and which states that they should not travel to a conference abroad before obtaining permission." [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

New Measures Introduced To Curb Armed Activities

LD0211174494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Afghan Government has introduced a ban from today on the comings and goings of armed persons in the eastern and northern areas of Kabul which are under the control of the government forces.

Following the ban, hundreds of police officers and government forces were stationed at roundabouts and squares of Kabul.

The Afghan Government measure has been adopted following an agreement reached between the jihadi groups who are stationed in the capital in order to reduce the presence of armed persons in the city.

High Session of Ministers Held; Agenda Detailed

LD2610203994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The high session of ministers was held this morning presided over by Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister. Proposals of some ministries were discussed. The press office of the prime minister reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that first members of the cabinet put forward proposals on the solution of the related ministries' problems. After discussion, necessary decision were made about the alleviation of the problems of the Ministries of Higher Education, Border Affairs, Refugee Affairs, Guidance and Endowment, and Communication, and were communicated to the related sources. Then Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai—who, as a head of a senior delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was in Turkmenistan on an official visit regarding the construction of an international transit highway through Afghanistan—presented a detailed report to the cabinet about his visit. [words indistinct]

Supreme State Council Discusses Political Situation

LD0111203694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The secretariat of the Supreme High Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that the session of the Supreme High Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, chaired by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, the country's president, was held this afternoon.

The session was attended by esteemed Professor Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union]; esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, deputy leader of Ettehad-e Eslami; esteemed Chief Justice Mohammad Shah Fazli; Esteemed Education and Training Minister Mowlawi Jalillolah Mowlawizada; Esteemed Hojjat-ol Eslami Sayd Mohammad Ali Jawid, chairman of the central council of Harakat- e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement]; [name and title indistinct]; Esteemed Hojjat-ol Eslam Mohammad Akbar Akbari, spokesman and head of the political committee of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party]; [name and title indistinct]; esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Masud, representing the Jami'at-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Society of Afghanistan]; [two names indistinct]; esteemed Kazemi, member of the central committee of Wahdat-e Eslami.

At this session, a comprehensive and detailed discussion was held regarding the country's current situation, and necessary decisions were made.

BAKHTAR Commentary Calls For Grand Assembly

LD2610225194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Efforts to put an end to the war have increased. However, Golboddin Hekmatyar wants to wreck the efforts by firing rockets. The political commentator of the BAKHTAR information agency writes:

Recent changes are worth mentioning. Leaders of four jihadi organizations put the emphasis in Jalalabad on the convening of a Loya Jerga and the consolidation of the Islamic state. These organizations wield extensive military and political strength. After consultation with a number of Afghan personalities in Quetta, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN special envoy, held talks with leaders of the jihadi organizations, and it is planned that he is going to hold talks with a number of commanders including Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, former minister of defense and a famous jihadi commander, and Mohammad Esmail, general amir of the southwest zone. [words indistinct]

The current talks of the UN representative have two clear characteristics. The first aspect is the convening of a Loya Jerga [Grand Assembly], for which the state has been working for a long time. The second aspect is that talks should be held with jihadi commanders and leaders of the organizations, everyone of whom has in some way or other a clear role in determining war or peace. It was stated at the start of the UN efforts that no prior prescription for the solution of problems would be put forward, and that the Afghans should initiate this matter themselves.

Over the past three years much destruction has been caused in the course of this war in our country, especially in Kabul. The notion of a military solution is so abhorrent that even Golboddin Hekmatyar, who kills scores of our compatriots every day, has become ready to talk. However, this is not enough by itself. Practical ways should be sought to end the war. A very practical way is an Islamic traditional Loya Jerga, which means going to the votes of the people. Its basic elements should be the major forces in the current situation.

Third [as heard], the United Nations should boldly identify the causes of the war. Then it will be able to bring together the forces. While talks were going on first in Quetta and later in Jalalabad, Golboddin Hekmatyar was giving the order for attacks on Kabul from Charasiab. The opponents of the Islamic state insist on issues that will cause problems for our country in the future. How can the people, who fought against the aggression for 14 years, talk to the remnants of the aggression [words indistinct]. For various reasons, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is ready to (?accept some) militia groups in the forthcoming talks but some other militia groups cannot take part in the talks due to their past as well as for legal reasons. If the United Nations insists on this issue, there is a fear that all efforts and hopes will be ruined.

As a first step it is necessary to make efforts (?to find common ground), and not to hurt the feelings of our mojahed people. The easiest way of putting an end to the fighting is to bring pressure to bear on the militia warmongers. After this the people will be allowed to determine their fate in the traditional way without fear of Golboddin Hekmatyar's rockets.

Loss of Life in Bombardment of Charasiab Denied

LD0111151494 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday two airplanes of the coalition flew over Charasiab and conducted a blind bombardment from high altitude. In military terms this bombardment was very far from military importance. They did not even fly near military targets. But the waffle, that was uttered last night by the Jabal os Saraj Radio [Radio Afghanistan], meant that Charasiab's artillery was finished and that everything had been destroyed. Similarly there was a hue and cry in their military wireless channels as if they had captured another Bala Hesar. Whereas in yesterday's bombardment neither anyone got even a bleeding nose nor an object as small as a pebble hit a military target. [passage omitted]

General Dostam Returns From Turkmenistan

LD0111173294 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the National Islamic Movement, who had been to Turkmenistan at the invitation of the president of Turkmenistan some time ago, returned to his homeland after participating in the independence anniversary of that country. During his stay in Turkmenistan, Esteemed General Dostam met separately with Turkmen President Niyazov, His Excellency Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, President of Iran 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan, and Sardar Asif Ali, minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan.

The report adds that during the meeting that General Dostam had with the presidents of the aforementioned countries, he gave them information on the stance and policy of the High Coordination Council [HCC]. In response, the presidents and the prime minister of Pakistan condemned Rabbani's administration and rejected the jihad he has declared, and supported the policy of the HCC, which wants the restoration of all-out peace and the holding of elections in the country. Similarly, the other day esteemed 'Abdol Rashid Dostam met with esteemed special UN envoy Mahmud Mestiri. During the course of talks he stated the HCC's stance on the solution of the current crisis in the country. During the meeting, Esteemed General Dostam insisted on the resignation of Rabbani and said: Rabbani should transfer the reins of power to an interim government.

Council Statement on Circulation of Bank Notes

LD0111180594 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Statement of the High Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan [HCCIRA]. In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate; Recently the hellish set-up of Khad [National Security] has spread rumors on the circulation of bank notes in Charasiab as part of its unfounded propaganda. Therefore, to reassure esteemed compatriots, HCCIRA announces the following points:

1. Apart from 5,000 and 10,000 afghanis bank notes all other former bank notes are exchangeable and valid.

2. The future government will declare invalid all 5,000 and 10,000 afghanis bank notes, and will consider valid all other bank notes that have been used in transaction since the former regimes.

3. The future government will decide on the exchange of bank notes with new form and value, and will consider invalid and unexchangeable only the 5,000 and 10,000 afghanis bank notes. [words indistinct] will issue new bank notes to the people.

4. The rumors spread by Khad about the 1,000 afghanis bank notes are incorrect; these bank notes are valid in transaction affairs.

Iran

Ministry Spokesman Criticizes Secretary Christopher

LD0211173594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In connection with the extremist and hostile stance of U.S. Secretary of State Christopher concerning Iran, our country's

Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Because of his enmity towards Islam Mr. Christopher is hostile towards the Islamic Republic of Iran. The root of that enmity lies in issues which Christopher has so far hidden from the American public.

Minister on Cooperation With European Countries

LD0211185194 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research, 'Abbas Malaki, said here today that if European countries were ready to adopt a policy about Iran independent of Washington those countries can hope to have better grounds for cooperation with Islamic Iran.

The Foreign Ministry official who was addressing an assembly of experts of European research centers in Tehran, said despite good economic and cultural grounds, relations between European countries and Iran have fallen short of expected results.

The assembly of European experts of political and international studies is to continue in Tehran for two days. Participants in the assembly are from institutes in Germany, France, Britain, Italy, as well as the ambassadors of those countries in Tehran.

Sheykholeslam Says U.S. Backs Israeli 'Brutality'

LD2710223294 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1815 GMT 27 Oct 94

[Studio interview with Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister for African-Arab affairs, by unidentified correspondent; from the "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] As you know, during the past week the Middle East witnessed major developments. Jordan and Israel signed a compromise agreement, and U.S. President Clinton travelled to the region for this purpose to try to remove the obstacles on the path of the compromise. In view of the importance of this subject, we have devoted this week's program to the investigation of the course of the Arab-Israeli compromise. The honorable guest of our program tonight is His Excellency Mr. [Hoseyn] Sheykholeslam, deputy foreign minister in charge of the Arab world and Africa. While welcoming him, we invite you to pay attention to our program tonight. [passage omitted discussing President Clinton's visit to the region and the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace accord]

[Correspondent] Yesterday in his remarks in Cairo, Clinton described the Islamic Republic of Iran as the main element and as the serious obstacle in the path of the Arab-Israeli compromise. What is the stance of the Islamic Republic toward such remarks, and more generally, toward the whole course of the Arab compromise with Israel?

[Sheykholeslam] After the victory of the Islamic revolution, and especially after the collapse of communism and the decline of other ideologies, there are two forces which determine the future of the world. One is the power of arrogance, led by the United States. On the opposite side, the other force is the power of the oppressed, the deprived, and the Muslims, led by the Islamic Republic, particularly the special ideology which his eminence the imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise, presented in the form of the pure Muhammadan Islam, the ideology which is based on a correct understanding of leadership, guidance, and administration under the concept of velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the chief jurisconsult]. The clash between these two forces will determine the future of the world.

It is true that during this recent period, world arrogance has made some advances and has conquered some trenches. However, without doubt, the opposite force, the power of Islam has conquered many more trenches. Mr. Clinton's reference is to this point. He does not wish to start confronting the entire [Islamic] tendency, but he has no option but to grapple with the leader of this tendency [Iran]. He is confronted by it. It is as heard an admission of this weakness.

See, after the victory of the Islamic revolution—14 years, 15 years, it is 16 years now—in all the countries which you may wish to look at, you see that the Muslims have become victorious. In Lebanon the Muslims, especially the Shiites, were from the lowest social strata. Now, the most decisive forces in Lebanon are our friends, the Hizballah. Even if we cannot say that whatever the Hizballah wishes will be implemented in Lebanon, yet we can strongly claim that whatever the Hizballah opposes cannot be implemented. In Algeria, the situation will not settle down unless the Muslims have a role in the government. In Sudan the Muslims are in power. In other countries [sentence unfinished] Now the situation has come to a point that even a pretence of being Islamic is the source of power. Now all of them are pretending to be Muslims, because Muslims have become a power. In the same way that they [not further specified] have realized that in order to stay in power they should bow down to the Americans and to the west, they also have realized that they should win the hearts of the Muslims as well.

The truth of the matter is—and the Americans also know this—that Islam means Iran and the Muslims means Iran, and that the nations of the region will not turn toward the Americans. This is a strategic mistake which America is making, and I am sure that the American nation will not forgive Clinton and the people like him for this mistake. They have forsaken one billion Muslims of the world, and have sacrificed their strategic interests which they have regarding a billion Muslims for the sake of five million or a few million Jews, due to the interests and the power which those few million Jews have at present in influencing U.S. policies. They have won the friendship of those few million Jews at the expense of the animosity of the Muslims.

Is it possible for the Muslim nations to forget the issue of Palestine? Is it possible for them to forget Jerusalem, the first qiblah of the Muslims? According to the Koran, we are dutybound to safeguard the sanctity of Jerusalem. For all the Muslims what is in the Koran is the word of God, and they will not do otherwise.

What I wish to say is that Mr. Clinton's remarks in Cairo, and he may refer to them again in other places in continuation of his trip, are based on a reality. It is a reality which he wishes to undermine by distorting it. He is not confronting just us. All the oppressed and deprived people are in love with the imam [Khomeyni], are in love with Islam, and are in love with the kind of ideology which is based on the concept of 'Ashura [the tenth day of the month of Muharram when Imam Husayn was martyred] and of martyrdom. What is going on in Palestine at the moment, from a child a few years old to an 80 or 90-year old man or woman they throw stones at Israeli tanks. The machinery of suppression in occupied Palestine is among the most brutal machinery of suppression. It is different from other methods of suppression which have existed in other parts of the world in the past. The Israeli army and police sees its existence in the destruction of the Palestinians, and vice versa. There the struggle is a serious one.

What we see on television and in some news reports is something that has passed through many sharp edges of censorship. Still we see that an Israeli soldier breaks the arms of a Palestinian child with his rifle butt. Others hold the child and one breaks his arms. This is the kind of brutality that is taking place there; and Mr. Clinton is supporting this kind of brutality in the name of human rights. He is condoning this kind of crime in the name of human rights, and this kind of oppression is an oppression that started with the usurping of the Palestinian lands and the expulsion of the Palestinians who are the natural inhabitants of that land. In my view, this suppression will not come to an end until Israel is destroyed. There is no other way.

At the moment, they are trying to normalize relations between Arab nations and Israel. Yet even now the Israelis are deporting 19,000 Arab workers from the post-48 lands, due to the security problems that they have faced; and are replacing them with workers from non-Arab nations, from Thailand, the Philippines, and so on. This is quite contrary to the process of normalization of relations between the Jews and the Arabs which they are propagating in the so- called peace conference. Their own action is the best testimony to the failure of this process. This tendency is growing [as heard]. Today in any part of the world, in the Middle East or in any Islamic country that you may wish to look at, you will see that today Islam is very different from 20 years ago. The Muslims are sharing power, and the leaders of the Islamic countries are forced to pretend and are forced to accept and admit the participation of Muslims in power, so that they themselves can stay in power. In our neighborhood, wherever you look, you see this.

[Correspondent] This is my next question. In the past few days we have witnessed extensive Zionist efforts to expand relations with Arab countries in particular those of the Persian Gulf region, in the various fields of trade, economy, industry, and commerce. What is your view in this regard?

[Sheykholeslam] There are two tendencies inside Israel. They have not yet abandoned their theory. The two lines that you see on the map of Israel—in between which is the star associated with his holiness David—are the Nile and Euphrates. When it was realized that oil is valuable for the world industry and economy and that waterways like the Persian Gulf, Bab al-Mandab, and the Suez Canal are valuable for taking oil from the oil regions to the western industrial centers in Europe, Israel was created to safeguard the interests of the west and to dominate the region. You can see, all the oil resources and oil waterways are in between the Nile and Euphrates. Israel was created to provide the security for their looting. There are two theories in Israel. One believes that the time of military occupation of the region is over. They say: this is because, particularly after the fall of the Soviet Union, militarism and provision of military power in the world is no longer on the agenda and we have to occupy the region through economic means, to affect the region socially and to impose our hegemony on the region through culture. As I said the new world order means that America is the master of the world and this is taken to mean that Israel is the boss of the region. This tendency has won in the domestic fighting and thus Mr. Rabin who is the leading representative of the tendency has managed to push forward this tendency with the help of Americans. Their aim is to occupy the region and loot regional resources. And it was for this reason that Mr. Clinton said, in the Jordanian parliament, that until the region is not financially well off our work will be only part done.

Unfortunately, a conference is to open in Morocco late next week to discuss all these issues; the Middle East Bank, the Middle East Fund for Reconstruction which Clinton announced in the Jordanian parliament, if I am not mistaken, a $600 million fund in Jordan. Seven economic ministers from Israel are to attend this conference as well as the Israeli prime minister, Rabin, and Foreign Minister Peres. This conference is, unfortunately, being formed in a country where its leader has always and openly said that if Arab money and Israeli brains come together, they will invade the world. With such mistaken theory the destiny of Muslims has become a plaything. However what remains is that nations have awakened and nations have understood that the Israelis are in the region. It is possible that the gates of the shaykh's and the king's castles are opened to Israelis but the door of the homes and bazaars of Muslims will not open to the Israelis and the future will prove this. The post intifadah struggles which we have witnessed in the region until today are testimony to this fact. In other words the struggle has been taken to the heart of Tel Aviv. Today the struggle has been taken to west Jerusalem and undoubtedly Israel is less secure than before. When did Israelis have the security problems they have now?

[Correspondent] Before asking my last question, I would like to thank you for taking part in this program. The Israelis and the Americans think that everything is now over and done with. What role do you think the intifidah plays in the Arab-Israeli compromise process? Also do you think that this process will bring a lasting peace to the region? If not, why?

[Sheykholeslam] I have already answered this question earlier. I will however answer it now from a different angle. [passage omitted]

What is happening today is that Israel is in fact making a retreat before the rising wave of intifidah. This means that when the Israelis could not use their apparatus of suppression, including all types of torture that they commit. [passage omitted]

The intifidah has, in fact, transformed the nature of the Palestinian issue. This is because in the past there was never any talk of a Palestinian nation. You only need to look at UN resolutions to see that none of them said anything about the Palestinian nation. They all merely talked about a group of refugees who needed to be settled somewhere. But now that the Palestinian nation is standing up resolutely despite the Israeli suppression, we see that Israel is in fact acknowledging the existence of the Palestinian nation. Once this acknowledgement is made, then the rights of that nation have to be taken into consideration as well.

Therefore, the Israelis brought this Mr. 'Arafat to the arena so that he could stop the intifadah. There was even this theory among the Israelis that they should abandon Gaza altogether unilaterally and let the Palestinians do whatever they want. As a matter of fact this went much further than a mere theory and became a bill in the Israeli parliament. But now they have employed Mr. 'Arafat to put a stop to the intifadah.

Fortunately, however, so far they have not succeeded and the nation's intifadah still continues. I am confident that, God willing, if the Palestinian nation continues its intifadah and maintains its present ideas, then it will certainly achieve victory. They will surely regain their land, and we will witness the rule of a Muslim government—at least—over that holy land.

U.S. Military Presence in Gulf Criticized

NC0211194694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Nov 94

[Political commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 100 U.S. fighter bombers will participate in the large-scale maneuvers over the Kuwaiti desert and the no-fly zone in southern Iraq which started yesterday, Tuesday. Among these planes are B-52 heavy strategic bombers flying from bases in the United States directly to this area to take part in these maneuvers. The objective behind these large-scale air maneuvers, according to a Dubai Radio report citing the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, is to demonstrate the U.S. ability to respond to any possible attack and show the U.S. readiness to send strike forces and reinforcements to the region whenever the need arises.

Accepting such justifications is a difficult thing, because the United States has strike forces in the Persian Gulf region. It has reinforced its military capabilities since the recent Iraqi moves in the border area with Kuwait. The United States has aircraft carriers in the region, therefore there is no need for such maneuvers. On the other hand, this extensive U.S. military presence has created new and serious tensions in the region ever since the oil war burdened the region. The United States knows very well that security in the Persian Gulf region is not under any internal threat from any regional side. Even the recent limited Iraqi military moves near the Kuwaiti borders cannot really be described as a serious threat to Kuwait, as Washington and the West have tried to suggest. The countries in the Persian Gulf region have realized through experience ever since the war imposed by Iraq on Iran started that, with the exception of the two stupidities committed by the Iraqi regime, foreign military presence in the region has been the major factor in shattering stability and security in the region.

The United States has had an extensive military presence in the region for many years. Is it logical to justify these air maneuvers as protecting the security and stability in the region? Will these maneuvers truly secure permanent peace? True and permanent peace must emanate from and derive from interactions within the region itself, not from outside its borders. The countries of the region are the only parties qualified and capable of preserving peace and stability in the region, because for them the concept of security is linked to the interests and futures of their people. The peace and security the United States advocates is based on U.S. interests, and this contradicts the sovereignty and interests of the countries in the region.

U.S. 'Pressured' Japan To Stop Payment of Loan

LD2010202694 Tehran IRNA in English 1930 GMT 20 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—The U.S. pressure on Japan has gone beyond the boundary of bilateral economic and political loggerheads and entered to the arena of Japan's ties with other countries. The problem has come to light when Japan has demanded for permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council last month.

According to the latest issue of London-based daily, the FINANCIAL TIMES, the U.S. in cooperation with the Zionist regime has pressured Japan to stop paying the second part of the one billion dollar loan to Iran.

Ramin Mahmudi, an economic researcher said that this is not the first time that the U.S. Administration endeavours to negatively influence Iran's economic and political relations with the industrialized countries, the endeavours which were doomed to failure, he said. Two years ago, when Iran fell into arrears in its payment, the U.S. took the opportunity to urge the summit meeting of seven industrialized countries (Group 7) not to cooperate with Iran and reduce the volume of trade with Iran.

Despite the U.S. efforts, Iran succeeded in signing new accords with its European trade partners and Japan to reschedule payment of over 10 billion dollars of the delayed debts.

An observer said that the U.S. propaganda campaign to implicate Iran in bombing incidents in Argentina, denied later on by the U.S. officials, was an utter failure for the U.S. policy towards Iran.

Japan, the largest trade partner of Iran after Germany agreed to reschedule Iran's debt amounting to dlrs. 3.6 billion and approved to grant one billion dollars worth of credit to construct Karun 4 dam in Iran. According to Japan's finance ministry officials, Japan has planned to pay the loan in three phases followed by the full implementation of the former phase. Japan paid the first part of the loan last May.

A Japanese student who is majoring in Middle Eastern issues in Hiroshima told IRNA correspondent that Japan was one of the main trade partners of Iran in the course of Iraqi imposed war (1980-1988) while the U.S. insisted on exercising economic sanction against Iran. He said that last year Japan had the highest trade cooperation with Iran in the Middle East. It indicated that Japan followed an independent policy and separated its foreign policy from that of Washington, he said.

FINANCIAL TIMES wrote that approval of Karun 4 dam project has meant the end of Japan's controversy with Washington on Iran. Washington has opposed delivery of any assistance to Iran for the past 17 years, said the FINANCIAL TIMES.

An expert who studies relations of the states in the Persian Gulf with Japan and Malaysia, said that not only Iran, but also, the world community expect the European states and Japan to study the realities and consider impartially the status of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international arena in order to formulate an independent policy towards the Islamic Republic of Iran. the independent policy will guarantee the interests of the littoral states of the Persian Gulf and the European and Japanese trade partners.

Commentary Assails U.S. 'Pressure'

LD2110204394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 21 Oct 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The daily FINANCIAL TIMES in a recent report wrote that the United States and the Zionist regime have once again put Japan under pressure to refrain from extending the second part of a billion-dollar loan to Iran.

Based on the report, the United States and the Zionist regime, under the pretext that Iran has had a hand in terrorist operations, are using the leverage of threats to oppose Japan's permanent membership in the UN Security Council, as officially asked by Japan, in less than a month to dissuade Japan to extend the said loan to Iran.

The Japanese Government had formerly considered paying the loan to the Islamic Republic of Iran as an important step in presenting an image independent of the United States. The important point in the Irano-Japanese relations is that the Japanese Government has had the best kind of political, economic, and trade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Japan, which is Iran's biggest trade partner after Germany, agreed to the rescheduling of $2.6 billion in its claim from the Iranian firms last year.

In the meantime, Tokyo had expanded its cooperation with Iran by extending a loan worth over $1 billion for the construction of Karun's fourth dam. The first part of the loan, which is extended to Iran in three stages, was put at the disposal of Iran for conducting engineering studies, designing and consulting services. The loan is worth $364 million.

It is well to mention that this is not the first time the U.S. Administration collaborated with the Zionist regime with this baseless claim, that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has had a hand in terrorist activities, and trying to harm Iran's political and economic cooperation with advanced countries. Especially the United States and the Zionist regime are by no means pleased with the expansion of Iran's relations with other countries, and are trying to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this connection, the U.S. and the Zionist regime's recent attempts to make it believed that Iran has had a hand in the bombing of the trade center in Argentina has been the most recent failure of the U.S. and the Zionist regime's foreign policy toward Iran, which the world community will not forget.

At any rate, in view of Japan's independent foreign policy, it is predicted that the relations between Tehran and Tokyo will expand as in the past, and the foreign interference aimed at straining these relations will fail, in view of the two countries' interest in consolidating mutual relations and a sound understanding of these issues.

U.S. Embassy Seizure Anniversary Events Reported

Nateq-Nuri: No Resumption of U.S. Ties

LD0211194494 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Majlis Speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Wednesday [2 November] said the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf has endangered the security of the region.

In an address to a large gathering of people in front of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Nateq-Nuri advised the regional states to differentiate friends from enemies.

The gathering was part of rallies held nationwide on the eve of the 13th of Aban (November 4th), marking the takeover of the U.S. den of espionage (embassy), exile to Turkey of the late Imam Khomeyni and massacre of several students by the agents of the former regime.

The uncompromising nature and power of the Iranian nation explain why Washington considers the Islamic Republic as the sole impediment to its compromise scheme in the region, he said.

He said Iraq's recent military movements near its border followed by the U.S. military expeditions to the region turned the Persian Gulf to an ammunition depot which if exploded will harm regional countries first.

Rejecting idea of re-establishing Tehran-Washington diplomatic ties as "ominous whispers", the speaker added "as long as the statesmen and officials of the Islamic Republic live, the struggle against the U.S. and global arrogance will continue."

The speaker also underlined the need for coordination among all Iranian forces in the face of the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf.

Khamene'i on 'Struggle Against Arrogance'

LD0211155994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1104 GMT 2 Nov 94

[Speech by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to seminarians and students at the Imam Khomeyni prayer center in Jamaran, north Tehran, on 2 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First of all, I would like to welcome you dear young people who are the source of this country and nation's future hope and capital. These days and this occasion, especially, are linked in a specific way to the younger generation—notably students and seminarians who are preoccupied with the world of knowledge and study. The struggle against arrogance is linked in different ways to our dear youth.

Today I will say something about this same issue—struggle against arrogance. What is the issue? What is really behind this issue? How far does it stretch back? It is true that it was the youth, young students who carried out the occupation of America's den of spies [embassy]. But this generation of the young, today - students, pupils, seminarians who are standing steadfast on-the- scene, rekindling our hopes and clarifying our vision—what does this generation know and how well-informed is it about this incident and its background? [passage omitted]

The Americans have a habit of considering their problem as that of the whole world, of Europe, while their problem is their own. The issue of the hostile relations between the Iranian nation and America concerns America; they cannot involve other countries, Europe, and say they [Iranians] are against everybody. No, the Iranian nation is not against everybody.

They try to make out that the Iranian nation and government do not understand sense, that they are hostile to everybody. No, sir. If we were to find a regime in the world which is against everybody and conspires against everybody, it would be America. It befits America to say that it is against everybody. Whereever it goes you see that it goes with harshness, arrogance, greed, and insolence. It does not befit us; neither the Islamic Republic system nor the people. No, we are not hostile to everybody. We are against America, with reason. [passage omitted]

What do they [Americans] expect? Do they expect the Iranian nation to pet them? Nobody taught the Iranian people to say death to America. It came from the depths of the being of each and every person to say death to America. [crowd chants death to America]

Some people here and there question us, and ask why? We say to them: why do you not ask this question in its proper context? Why do you not ask why the American regime is so contemptful of the Iranian nation, merely because it has sought to be independent?

What I said earlier concerned the advent of the revolution. Since that time till the present, the American regime has ceaselessly hatched conspiracies against the Iranian nation, revolution and officials.

It was in a previous American administration that one of its leaders shamelessly said that the Iranian nation had to be destroyed. How stupid one must be to say such a thing. However, they did say it. This is because of their enmity and their grudge, which is apparent in what they say and on their faces. And now they are going to different places, such as China, Japan, etc, asking these countries to severe their ties with Iran. This is none of your business! So why do you interfere? [passage omitted]

The world nations and governments are all very willing to have relations with the proud nation of Iran; a nation which has a strong spirit and a rich culture. It also has a long history and a good record in intellectual development. It also has rich material resources, a young work force and good managers. This nation is bound to do well and go very far. [passage omitted]

The Americans have shown their contempt for the Iranian nation, and they continue to do so. Someone may ask about the reason for all this enmity. The reason is that the Iranian nation, with its Islamic faith and with the culture it has been given by the course of its struggle, its revolution, and the imam [Khomeyni], will not succumb to domination by major powers. The Americans do not like this at all. The ringleaders of global arrogance, headed by America, only like meek and feeble nations. They want nations to obey them. Just look at the present state of the world.

There are times when a nation stands firm and does not give in. It says you are merely a country like us, with a government like ours. You are a rich country with scientific advances, while we are a nation with a shining history and many potentials and foreign exchange reserves [as heard]. When a nation appears on the arena with such a spirit of independence, and with such a strength, and when a government does not look up to them and refuses to consider them as a superpower, then they can stand it no longer.

This is the nature of these gentlemen. They [the Westerners] will then try to find out the source which has taught this nation this thought. If the source has been a person, then they will hate that person profoundly, just in the same way that they hated the imam from the depth of their hearts. [passage omitted]

Despite this hatred, there are still people here and there who utter certain words or write certain things, asking for how long are we going to remain anti-American. They understand nothing about what is happening in the world. They really do not understand the degree of expectations by this greedy, selfish, and unwise enemy. They think that all problems will be solved the moment we resume relations with America and begin talking to them. No sir! This will not be the case.

The Americans of course officially say that they are ready to negotiate with Iran. Negotiations for what purpose? Certainly for the purpose of finding a new way to exert more pressure on Iran. Otherwise what is negotiation for when we have nothing to do with you, and we do not need you at all. We feel no affection toward you, because you are the ones who in the broad daylight and before the eyes of the world attacked and downed our civilian aircraft under baseless pretexts, killing tens of innocent people. Worse still, you did not even apologize. What kind of a regime, and what type of a culture is this? How can you start to like such a regime?

We have nothing to do with them. There really are no ties of affection and friendship between us and America. Hatred comes from our side, while mischievous enmity emanates from their side.

There is one more fundamental issue, which I do not want to forget. What we have been saying so far has concerned the history of America's actions against the Iranian nation. However, this is not the whole issue.

A principle dominates the way we Muslims think, and that is our hatred of oppression and the oppressors, and we like to stand up against the oppressors no matter in what part of the world we live. Just look at the degree of oppression and injustice committed by America, and just look at how many tyrants they have nurtured. Just look at the injustice they have done to nations. [passage omitted]

The issue is this. Whatever I said so far are the foundation and bases behind the campaign against global arrogance and to mark the anti-global arrogance day, which is marked as an anti-American event. This process is continuing as long as the the system of the Islamic Republic moves in the right path. As long as the Koranic, Islamic, and divine aspirations rule over us and over the system, this hatred against and confrontation with the ringleaders of the global arrogance headed by the United States will remain in force. [crowd chants "Death to America" and "Death to Israel"]

If they were to change their behaviour, this would change too. Naturally we do not believe that it will happen. It is unlikely.

This was the first issue. The second issue. I want to say it briefly in few sentences: My dear ones, the youths. The issue to build an Islamic system and an Islamic civilization and a new history is a serious issue for this nation. You should take it seriously. There are times when in a country someone resort to a coup d'etat. A military man comes to power. For instance, he remains in power for a period. Then, he goes and everything returns to its original form or another person takes over from him. Sometime this happens. There nothing much to be said about such developments. What has happened in Iran is a great movement at the international level. We are of course a nation. Our borders are limited borders. We have nothing to do outside boundaries. You should know this. Our efforts and activities are focused within our own borders. But, this revolution is not confined to within these boundaries. This message was an international message. The reason: The reason is: When the Iranian nation and our great and honorable leader [Khomeyni] carried out this task [revolution], the Muslims all over the world felt so happy as if it was their new year and their new year began. Despite the fact that it had nothing to do with them. It was felt all over the world felt that a new juncture had begun in their history. We witnessed this closely. I personally felt this in the other countries. [passage omitted]

Today it is your responsibility to shoulder the burden. Thus far the Iranian nation has carried out its task in the best possible manner. It performed its task during the war and then during the period after the war. Today [you can see] an academic climate. This is the climate of our construction and economic activities. This is how our government and our nation perform. This is the presence of [the people] in the scene. The Iranian nation has shown a worthy presence everywhere.

They spread propaganda. They talk about the construction process, about the [government's] plans, and say that the policies proved to be wrong. These are the enemy's words. Do not listen to these words. The reality is different. The reality is that the Iranian nation has been able to have advances in all the spheres, to break the obstacles, and take steps and go forward in all spheres. Both in the spheres of science, spirituality, religion, ethics, economics, armed forces, and the rest. Of course it is possible that we did not achieve as much as we expected. But, we have achieved much more than was imagined by others.

The future, too, is bright. The future of this revolution, this system, this country will be a very bright and glorious one thanks to the blessings of Islam. In the main, it is you youngsters who must shape this future. First of all, deepen the Islamic belief within you. That is fundamental. You must do this with your actions. Belief is not a theoretical or mental thing. Belief is strengthened through action. [passage omitted]

That is the first thing: belief. [Second], strengthen your political awareness so that you will not be deceived by the enemy's propaganda. This is also a fundamental principle. It cannot be ignored, especially by you youngsters who are engaged in acquiring knowledge. You must honor the nation as a collectivity and honor the unity of the nation. Be careful not to allow allegiances of trades, parties, groups, trends, factions to draw you over to one side. That is the devil's work. And the Great Satan would like that very much. See for yourself, if, today, someone happens to say the slightest negative remark by accident—much more so, of course, if it is deliberate—tomorrow, the world's trumpets will broadcast it; regardless of what it is. Why? Because they do not care about the one who said it. What they are concerned about is that a negative remark has been said in this country. Maintain your unity of expression. [passage omitted]

If you do so [maintain unity], with God's blessing, during the next few years and the next few decades, the foundations will be laid for such a sublime civilization here and in many other places and Islam and Muslims will show themselves in such splendor that global arrogance will no longer possess any reality or truth. There will be no more arrogance. [Crowd chants in support] [passage omitted]

Crowd Issues Resolution Warning U.S.

LD0211192794 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—The Muslim nation of Iran across the country on Wednesday [2 November] marked the 15th anniversary of the seizure of the former U.S. Embassy, 'den of espionage' in Tehran , once again expressing their hatred of the Great Satan.

November 4th, the National Day for Struggle Against the Global Arrogance, marks the day of seizure of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran by the students following the path of the founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam Khomeyni.

In a massive rally held in front of the den of espionage in Tehran the demonstrators chanted slogans against the U.S. and the Zionist regime, pledging their support for the oppressed Muslim people across the world. The demonstrators had started their rally from Tehran University and gathered in front of the den of espionage.

They were carrying banners with slogans reaffirming people's firm commitment to the Islamic values and principles as well as their continuous struggle against the Global Arrogance.

The marchers also set effigies of Clinton and Rabin on fire outside the U.S. den of espionage.

At the end of the rally the demonstrators issued a nine-point resolution in which they warned Washington to quit its mischievous acts in the Persian Gulf and leave Islamic countries alone.

The resolution also called on nations of the world to resist the U.S. expansionism which threatens Muslims and urged them to unite and coordinate their actions.

It further warned that the U.S. is making utmost efforts to target the heart of Muslim countries.

The Islamic Republic poses no threat to any country while firmly rejecting any domination seeking efforts, it added.

It reaffirmed Iran's policy of having friendly relations with its neighboring countries.

The demonstrators in their resolution denounced the Middle East compromise plan and said the key to liberation of the Holy Qods was giving full support to the Palestinian Islamic uprising, intifadah, and continuing anti-Zionist struggle.

They reaffirmed their full support for the supreme leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, and the government's economic policies.

Similar rallies were held in various parts of the country Wednesday.

Muslims Urged To Unite Against U.S.

LD0211224394 Tehran IRNA in English 2154 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, Nov. 2, IRNA—The people of this holy city on Wednesday [2 November] denounced the U.S. military presence in the Persian

Gulf, while commemorating the 15th anniversary of the capture of the U.S. den of spies in Tehran by students following Imam Khomeyni's line.

Tens of thousands of the faithful rallied in the streets before converging on the holy shrine of Hazrat Ma'souma here.

Majlis Deputy for Qom, Hojjat ol-Eslam Irani, in his speech to the rally condemned the fresh conspiracy of the U.S. in the region to legitimize the illegal Zionist regime.

He said the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is creating tension and insecurity in the region, but, he expressed hope, it will eventually lead to unity among the Muslim peoples against global arrogance.

A resolution issued at the end of the rally called for unity between the Muslim states and vigilance against the plots of the enemies of Islam.

Similar rallies were held in holy Mashhad and throughout the length and breadth of the country.

The historic 4th of November also marks the exile of Imam Khomeyni in 1964 by the monarchical regime, and the massacre in 1978 of Tehran university students by the shah's troops.

Further on Protests, Marches

LD0211141294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the eve of the anniversary of the national day of struggle against arrogance, Iranians took part in marches, chanting death to the United States, death to Israel, and emphasizing their relentless struggle against arrogant powers. Please listen to aspects of the anti-global arrogance day ceremonies in Tehran which started in front of the U.S.'s former Den of Spies [embassy]. [Recording carries crowd chanting: Death to America! Death to Israel!]

Death to the United States, the national slogan, was also heard today throughout the Islamic homeland. In Arak, Central Province, a splendid ceremony was attended by clergymen, students, academics, pupils, basijis, and other strata of the ever alert inhabitants of that township. The marchers passed through the streets chanting death to America and death to Israel. They condemned the interventionist policies of global arrogance, headed by criminal America, in the Persian Gulf region. They also renewed their unbending allegiance with the sacred aspirations of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution—His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—God's mercy be upon him—and the eminent leader Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The marchers also gathered at martyrs' square in Arak and underlined the contents of their nine-point resolution while shouting: God is Great! [passage omitted]

* Kashani on Argentina's Political Freedom

95LA0006J Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 17 Aug 94 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, (IRNA)—22 Mordad [13 August] In his Friday prayer sermons this week in Tehran, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, temporary Friday Imam of Tehran and one of the theologian members of the Guardian Council, discussed the accusations against Iran by Argentina officials. He said: In opening its doors politically to Zionism and world imperialism, the government of Argentina has undermined its political and judicial independence.

Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani addressed the judges of Argentina, who have been fooled by the Zionist plot. He said: Is it right for you to insult a government or an individual based on statements by an individual on whose background you have no information?

The temporary Tehran Friday Imam noted: Imperialist propagandists and news mouthpieces think that they are dealing with a world that is not informed and that the world will accept whatever they say.

The preacher at the Tehran Friday prayer service noted: What is clear is that the plots will turn back on the imperialists themselves and that the disgrace of these plots will remain for the enemies of Islam.

In his prayer service sermons, the temporary Tehran Friday Imam advised the worshippers to be pious and abstain from sin. He discussed the world imperialist plot, including the cultural invasion against Islam and the Muslims. He said: In its invasion, the enemy is trying to use satellites to destroy the human feelings of the Islamic nations, and to inflict their pain, meaning separation from human values, on the Muslim people.

The preacher at the Tehran Friday prayer service warned parents that if today a mother and a father do not understand the calamity they are bringing to their children and family by using a satellite dish, in the future they will be beset by the same affliction that infects Western families, who have lost their human identity.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani emphasized the fact that today Westerners are worried about the unfortunate situation with satellites and vulgar films. He added: To fight the cultural invasion, we must make a cultural resistance, because the cultural invasion is a cultural act and it demands cultural resistance.

The theologian member of the Guardian Council noted: Since fighting the satellite cultural invasion requires a technical discussion, the Voice and Vision organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran must hold meetings with experts on social, cultural, and psychological issues and ask them to discuss the undesirable consequences of its vulgar programming for the children of an Islamic nation, and they must also discuss for the younger generation and their parents the West's bitter experience in this regard.

He emphasized: What is clear is that today the West's professors and scholars detest the vulgar culture that dominates them, because what brought Westerners to technology was not irresponsibility, but the efforts of their scholars.

The theologian member of the Guardian Council also discussed participation by a group of Iranian boys and girls in the international scholastic competition, which also brought great honor to the country. He said: With the outstanding academic performance of an Iranian girl who competed among 46 nations of the world, the evil enemy propaganda plot to accuse Iran of not observing women's rights was thwarted.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani advised to the nation's youth and adolescents that they must make increasing effort to learn and study in order to achieve the necessary academic growth and to obtain the technology needed by the country. He also advised parents to encourage their children in this important matter, because the nation's future depends completely on the efforts of today's adolescents and youth.

* Numerous Students Arrested for Smuggling

95LA0006C Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 16 Aug 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] News sources in the Islamic Republic, quoting a judicial official in the province of Sistan va Baluchestan named Hamidi, reported that the smugglers who are active in this province have hired large numbers of university students in this region, and are using them as smugglers.

According to this judicial official, "40 percent of those who were arrested on smuggling charges in the month of Tir this year [22 June-22 July] are students." Continuing, he added: "Since there is no house of correction in this province, the arrested students were released from prison after their parents submitted written guarantees that the crimes would not be repeated."

In conclusion Hamidi said: "From the beginning of the month of Farvardin this year through the end of the month of Khordad [21 March-21 June 1994] in the province of Sistan Va Baluchestan more than 10 tons of narcotics have been confiscated, a 50-percent increase over that figure for the same period last year."

At the end of this report, local province officials are quoted as saying that the very high unemployment rate among youth has caused them to turn to smuggling various kinds of goods, because in this way unemployed individuals can obtain an income for themselves.

* Paper on Budget Shortage in Education Ministry

95LA0006A Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 16 Aug 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] In a talk in Tehran at the Fifth Seminar for Supervisors for Iranian Schools Outside the Country, Mohammad Sepehrirad, deputy minister of education and training for planning, discussed the shortage of financial resources in this ministry. He said: One of the problems in the Ministry of Education and Training is the 30-billion-rial [R] budget deficit last year, despite the increase in the number of students, and it is expected that this year this ministry will face a budget deficit of R50 billion.

It is worth mentioning that recently Dr. Alami, deputy minister of education and training for textbook printing affairs, said: This year, due to the fact that the allocation of foreign exchange to buy paper has fallen behind three months, the work at the textbook publishing houses began in the last 10 days of the month of Khordad [11-21 June]. If the printing houses work at high capacity and without stopping, it will take six months (meaning up to three months after the beginning of the 1373-1374 [1994-1995] academic year.

* New Government Appointments Announced

95LA0006K Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 7 Sep 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] In separate decrees, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi appointed Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi-Gilani, a member of the Guardian Council, as chief of the National Supreme Court, and Ayatollah Morteza Moqtada'i as national general prosecutor. Prior to this, Moqtada'i was chief of the National Supreme Court for five years.

Ayatollah Yazdi also issued another order appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ebrahim Ra'isolsadat (Ra'isi) as chief of the National Inspectorate Organization.

On the recommendation of the foreign minister and with the approval of the president of the Republic, Mohammad Jamshidi-Gowhari was appointed as Iran's special ambassador and fully authorized representative to Nicaragua.

The minister of culture and higher education issued an order appointing Hamid Khoshgofar as supervisor of student welfare funds.

The minister of roads and transportation issued an order appointing Dr. Mehdi Bazargan as his deputy minister.

The minister of industries issued an order appointing Seyyed Mohammad Sadeq-Ale Yasin as chairman of the board of directors and executive director of the Iran Handcraft Industries Organization.

The executive director of the Kish Free Trade Zone Organization issued an order appointing Engineer Mohammad Hoseyn Dajmar, executive director of the Kish Fishing Company, as his deputy director and official in charge of the Kish Free Trade Organization Staff in Tehran. Dajmar will continue to serve in his current position as executive director of the Kish Fishing Company.

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Israeli Role in Regional Economic Plan Examined

MM0411110094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "The Positive Aspect of the Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been some controversy about the major economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa held in Casablanca. The debate is about the future of cooperation among the region's states.

The conference was a significant occasion for opening our files to one another, particularly as some world powers sent official and popular delegations, some of them for the first time, to hear what the peoples of the region have to say.

What the people of the region, that is us, have to say is complicated and diverse with a mixture of facts and theories, truths and exaggerations, fact and fiction. Here I will try to address three specific points related to the proposed idea of cooperation. The first is Israel's participation, the second is the regimes, and the third is finance.

Today I will just discuss the Israel complex. It is no secret that many people are not happy about Israel's presence [at the conference] but that has been dictated. It is like the story of selling the cat with the camel. Without Israeli participation there would be no cooperation, not with the blessings and guarantees of the industrial states.

Even those who see Israeli participation in the economic cooperation plan as a bitter pill to swallow will later on see it as a necessity.

Since the early fifties, there have been attempts to form regional blocs but they fell victim to political differences. Because economics were kept out of all collective agreements, inter-Arab cooperation has failed dismally.

Now there is another chance and it might, for the first time, produce success in achieving cooperation. Israel, which had divided the Arabs at the beginning of the peace process, may be a cause for Arab grouping on clear and firm foundations. Those who are fighting the plan because they do not want Israel in it, know that that cannot be done without considering Israel as a member of the family.

Here I would like to address the Arab minds not emotions. The Arabs should forget that one member of the family is a foundling because that would keep the family united and keep a roof over its head. Israel is only one state which some tried to portray as a giant industrial state similar to Germany or Japan which, in actual fact, it is not.

Israeli technological, industrial, and agricultural superiority is a known fact but it is a limited superiority in a very big market in which dozens of other foreign states compete. The population of Israel is less than the population of even Somalia and its export capacity is much less than the capacity of a state like South Korea which has a presence in many Arab states. So why fear this foundling child which we have now been compelled to adopt?

We should never forget that the massive real capabilities are in the bigger markets which usually have the final say. Just as Israel is a compulsory chain on the foot of this region, without which it cannot move, it will ultimately be governed by its interests in the region's markets, just like any other state which exports a major part of its products to or imports a major part of its needs from a single market.

We have more influence on such states as the Philippines and Spain, who are far away, than we do on Israel which is in our midst. The secret is that the Philippines and Spain have economic needs which Israel does not.

Here I am not proposing economic cooperation with Israel as a political weapon, because that too would be illogical. I am just pointing out that Israeli influence becomes weaker not stronger when Israeli needs increase at Arab level.

What is even more important is that we should turn a blind eye to Israel being a part of the plan so that it would, above all, serve Arab interests. Let the businessmen themselves decide what they want to import and what they want to export.

I recall what an ordinary Jordanian citizen said when asked his opinion about the Jordanian-Israeli agreement after it was signed. He said I do not care what they sign, I will not buy Israeli goods.

That is a logical reaction to what the circumstances have imposed on the politicians. He reserves the final right of deciding for himself what he wants. We have the Egyptian experiment before our eyes today, 15 years after [the treaty with Israel.] The Egyptians still prefer to purchase all kinds of goods except Israeli goods. But, on the other hand, Egypt has regained Sinai and its oil and the Suez Canal and its revenues.

The regional cooperation plan is an irreplaceable opportunity, provided there is a sincere will on the part of the participating states, and Israel could, without knowing it, be a real and positive factor in fulfilling that plan.

Palestinian Affairs

Suspected Hamas Activists Under Administrative Arrest

TA0311163494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Seven suspected activists of the military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have been placed under administrative arrest for six months. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the seven are residents of the al-Jalazun refugee camp north of Ramallah and that two of them had been deported to Marj al-Zuhur in Lebanon.

Hamas Leader Denies Link to Attacks in Israel

JN0311102494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Nov 94 p 12

[Article by Ghadir Tahir, "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Wednesday [2 November] denied Israeli charges that his Jordan-based office directs operation against Israeli targets and sends arms to the group in the occupied territories.

Muhammad Nazzal, the representative of Hamas in Jordan, said: "We have nothing to do with organising or funding any operations in the occupied territories."

"We have an information office here and I am only a spokesman," Mr. Nazzal told the JORDAN TIMES Wednesday. "We (Hamas) in Jordan are not involved in arming military operations against Israeli targets or sending instructions of any kind."

Israel Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reportedly said Tuesday that Hamas ships arms into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Egypt and Jordan. This was the first such Israeli accusation since Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26.

"Hamas weapons come into the territories from Egypt and Jordan," Mr. Rabin reportedly told the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

A spokesman quoted Mr. Rabin as saying that funds for fundamentalists also come from Jordan as well as Europe and the United States.

A senior military intelligence official, who was not named by the spokesman, told the committee that Hamas had a command centre in Jordan.

"A large part of the orders to attack Israeli targets have been transmitted by Hamas from Jordan, not by telephone or fax but by messengers," he said.

Mr. Nazzal said Mr. Rabin was trying to apportion the blame for his government's failure to guarantee security.

"The charges against groups outside Palestine is an attempt by Rabin to find a scapegoat for his failure to control his security," said Mr. Nazzal. Israel has been hit with several deadly bomb attacks in the last one month, killing at least 24 people and wounding dozens. All the attacks were claimed by the military wing of Hamas, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam [Battalions].

The last time Israel accused Jordan of harbouring "terrorists," Amman took strong action against the Hamas office here, confiscating their spokesman's passports and declaring the group illegal.

Tension has been rising between the government and the Islamist-led opposition. His Majesty King Husayn, in a speech to deputies last Sunday, warned Islamists and other rejections not to disparage the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and not to slander the monarchy over the accord from the pulpits of the mosques.

Officials refused to comment Wednesday on the Israeli allegations, but Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said in an interview with Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) that there were no Hamas bases in Jordan.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, president of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, said Wednesday:

"The Israeli prime minister is trying to capitalise on the anti- rejectionist mood, which manifested itself immediately after Friday's incidents (when clashes broke out in Amman mosque) and was reflected by His Majesty's speech to deputies, in order to provoke a strong reaction against the Islamists," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

"Rabin knows that there are no armed groups in Jordan that plan violent acts. He is trying to create a link between the Islamic movement in Jordan, which rejects violence, and the armed resistance groups in the occupied territories."

"I strongly believe Jordan will not allow itself to be used as a tool in Israel's hand in its war against Hamas," said Mr. al-Kabariti. "Jordan will prevent any attempt by any group to use Jordanian territory to launch attacks against Israel. This is clear in the peace treaty."

He said Jordan would not risk its democracy to fight Israel's war. The influential deputy said Hamas had a right to have a representative information office here as long as it did not violate any Jordanian laws.

Islamic Action Front Deputy Muhammad 'Uwaydah denied the Israeli allegations, challenging the Israeli government to produce any evidence to support its claim. He said Hamas does not have any military organisation operation outside the occupied territories.

Mr. 'Uwaydah told a news conference Wednesday that the only support Hamas gets from outside the occupied territories is "political and moral."

He said Hamas does not received any arms from Jordan.

Weekly Reports Hamas Training in U.S.

TA0311111194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Armed Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads are training in the use of arms and sabotage materials on farms in the Chicago area. This has been reported by the Paris-based weekly AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, which is distributed in the Arab world.

There is a large Palestinian community in that area which helps the squads in collecting funds and equipment, acting under the guise of charity organizations. One of those training camps was accidentally discovered by a hunter who heard shots and explosions.

According to the weekly, Mosad agents have recently arrived in the United States with new information about Hamas activity, including a list of people who are believed to be members of the Hamas leadership. According to the information gathered so far, it appears that Hamas is supported by some 20,000 U.S. citizens, of whom some 300 to 500 are members of armed squads.

Reportage on al-'Abid's Assassination, Reaction

Fatah Accuses Israeli Intelligence

JN0311190594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement has accused Israeli intelligence organs of assassinating journalist Hani al-'Abid, who was assassinated in a carbomb in one of Gaza streets. This came in a joint statement distributed this morning. The statement is signed by the Fatah Movement; the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; the Islamic Jihad; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]; the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]; and the Palestinian People's Party. The statement calls for a general strike in the Gaza Strip today to protest al-'Abid assassination. The statement also calls on the Palestinian people to express their anger and to denounce the crime.

Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali, director general of the Palestinian Police, condemned the assassination of Hani al-'Abid. He said that the Palestinian Police will reveal anything reached during the ongoing investigation in this regard.

The press office at the Palestinian Information Ministry issued a statement in which it denounced the premeditated explosion in which brother martyr Hani al-'Abid was killed. The statement adds: The reaction of the Palestinian people and authority constitutes a strong blow to those who aimed at encroaching the unity of the Palestinian people.

The funeral of martyr Hani al-'Abid, who was killed in a carbomb incident in one of Gaza streets, took place in Gaza this afternoon.

More details in the following report by our correspondent 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza:

[Begin al-Za'nun recording] This afternoon, thousands of people participated in the funeral of martyr journalist Hani al-'Abid in the Grand 'Umari Mosque. The funeral processing left the martyr's house in Hayy al-Rimal in Gaza for the martyr's cemetery in al-Shuja'iyah. Al-'Abid was martyred yesterday evening when his private car was blown up when he was driving it home after ending his work as a lecturer at the Science and Technology University in Khan Yunus.

Thousands of Palestinian police participated in the funeral and worked to maintain security and to prevent any traffic jams. Participants raised black flags as an expression of their anger and denunciation of this ugly criminal act. The participants called for national unity as the only solution to abort plots.

The national and Islamic Palestinian factions condemned this ugly act. Six factions—Fatah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP, DFLP, and the People's Party—issued a statement in which they called on the Palestinian people to express their anger and denunciation of this crime and to participate in the funeral. The statement also announces that all Islamic and national Palestinian factions strongly denounce the premeditated crime by the treacherous hands manipulated by the desire for the destruction of all our Palestinian people.

In a separate statement distributed in Gaza today, the Fatah Movement held Israel and its agents fully responsible. Fatah called on the sons of the Palestinian people, their factions, and forces to close ranks and to adopt a responsible stand to abort these attempts.

The movement offered condolences to the family of martyr al-'Abid and to the Palestinian people on his martyrdom. [end recording]

PA Official Holds Israel Responsible

JN0311130494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah in the occupied territories]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Palestinian official has accused the Israeli security forces of assassinating Hani al-'Abid, one of the activists of the Islamic Jihad Movement, in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip yesterday by blowing up his car in front of the Technology College where he works as a teacher.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice in the Palestinian Authority, has said that the Palestinian security institutions are investigating the assassination incident. He accused Israeli intelligence of perpetrating the operation, noting that it was carried out in a sophisticated manner. He said that the car was blown up by a remote-control device, a method not used by the Palestinians.

Israel accused Hani al-'Abid of having been involved in the killing of two Israeli soldiers near the Erez checkpoint on 20 May.

PA's Abu-Zayidah Discusses Assassination

TA0311180994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, in charge of the Israeli desk in the PA, by Rafi Reshef in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Reshef] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, why do you believe Israel is responsible for the assassination of Hani al-'Abid?

[Abu-Zayidah] Three facts are already known: first, the professionalism of the assassination. I do not think any element other than Israel could have done it so professionally.

[Reshef] If you are familiar with the details, can you tell us what was so professional about it?

[Abu-Zayidah] The attack was directed against a specific person; an explosive charge was planted under the driver's seat. The Israelis would know that al-'Abid himself used to drive his car. Apparently those responsible for the assassination took care that nobody else would be harmed. The second fact is that to the best of my knowledge nobody else was interested in Hani al-'Abid. Israel accused him of being responsible for the murder of two Israeli soldiers at the Erez checkpoint some time ago and has constantly demanded that he be detained and tried. Third, I believe that in the three weeks following the Tel Aviv attack Israelis—Rabin, the government, Mosad officials—hinted that....

[Reshef, interrupting] Yes, this point is clear. Permit me to ask you, however, whether the Palestinian Authority [PA] interrogated Hani al-'Abid? Was he under detention?

[Abu-Zayidah] Hani al-'Abid was interrogated for 20 days, but he denied having anything to do with the murder of the two soldiers at the Erez checkpoint.

[Reshef] On the face of it the assassination of a prominent Islamic Jihad activist should make things easier for you, especially seeing that this man attacked two Israeli soldiers. The PA was supposed to deal with this matter.

[Abu-Zayidah] This is a mistake. You could say that from the military or intelligence aspects his assassination was an achievement, but from the political viewpoint it is an extremely complex business which will make things difficult for us.

[Reshef] Why?

[Abu-Zayidah] By carrying out this assassination Israel is in fact telling the PA that it does not trust it and that henceforth it will deal itself with all those suspected of being involved in the murder of Israelis. On the other hand, those who will feel threatened by Israel will tell the PA that it is no longer responsible for them and that they themselves will retaliate and exact vengeance. You heard what 'Abdallah al-Shami said in this respect. What this means is that we are proceeding in the direction of the Lebanonization of the Gaza Strip, which is bad both for Israel and for us.

[Reshef] Are you implying that such an operation can lead to mutual assassinations among Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and Fatah people within the Gaza Strip?

[Abu-Zayidah] No, I am still optimistic, and I do not believe there will be internal assassinations.

[Reshef] So what do you mean by Lebanonization?

[Abu-Zayidah] This means that Israel will shift the theater of operations between itself and the rejectionist organizations to the autonomy area, a thing that will weaken....

[Reshef, interrupting] Based on your familiarity with these organizations, when they threaten to operate in Tel Aviv should we take them seriously?

[Abu-Zayidah] After the al-'Abid incident I certainly am taking this seriously. I believe that it only exacerbates the situation and does not serve our interests at all.

'Arafat Urged To Provide Security

TA0311155294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud al-Zahhar, a leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to prevent Jews from entering the Gaza Strip so that they can not plant bombs. He also called on Yasir 'Arafat to take action against collaborators inside and outside the PA, to stop the negotiations with Israel at once, and to provide the Gaza Strip with secure borders.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that at the funeral of Hani al-'Abid, who was killed yesterday in a car explosion, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, the leader of Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, said that his organization would retaliate in the heart of Tel Aviv for al-'Abid's slaying.

Earlier it was reported that the Palestinian police arrested four Islamic Jihad activists in the Gaza Strip for distributing leaflets accusing the Israeli security services of being responsible for al-'Abid's death.

'Arafat Asked To Leave al-'Abid Funeral

TA0311134094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] When trying to participate in the funeral of Islamic Jihad activist Hani al-'Abid, who was killed yesterday when his car blew up, head of the Palestinian Autonomy Yasir 'Arafat was shamefully told to leave by mourners. All the Palestinian organizations, including Fatah and the rejectionist front, today issued a leaflet blaming the Israeli Mosad for al-'Abid's assassination. Oren Kohen, head of the Arab desk, reports:

Hani al-'Abid's murder in a car bomb explosion has apparently lead to a unification of forces in the territories. Fatah and the rejectionist organizations issued a joint pamphlet pinpointing the blame for al-'Abid's murder on the Mosad. That did not prevent the Islamic Jihad from turning Yasir 'Arafat away from the al-Am'ari Mosque where funeral prayers were being said for the deceased. Members of Islamic Jihad's military arm, the al-Qasim platoons [pelugot al-qasim], fired in the air when they saw the Palestinian police and Yasir 'Arafat entering the mosque to participate in the funeral. The shots and the derogatory calls by the participants convinced 'Arafat to change his plan to say a prayer in memory of the deceased, and he left the site.

Earlier, Furayh Abu-Middayn, in charge of the PA's judicial portfolio, said there is no doubt that al-'Abid's assassination was the work of the Mosad.

Following the prayers in the mosque, al-'Abid's funeral procession, in which thousands participated, left for the martyrs' cemetery near the Jabalyah refugee camp. Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders charge the PA with incompetence in defending them against Israel and with cooperating with the Zionist enemy. Therefore, the killing of al-'Abid, the first person detained by the PA on suspicion of involvement in the murder of two Israeli soldiers, is now causing further erosion in 'Arafat's already shaky position.

Islamic Jihad Apologizes for Funeral Behavior

JN0411065094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement has apologized for the irresponsible behavior of its members toward Yasir 'Arafat at the funeral of Hani 'Abid, one of the movement's leaders, at the Grand 'Umari Mosque. 'Arafat was forced to leave the mosque after being received with shouts of denunciation.

In a statement it issued, the Islamic Jihad Movement said that this behavior does not represent the movement's political and ethical course in dealing with political differences within the Palestinian house.

A meeting was held yesterday between Yasir 'Arafat and Muhammad al-Hindi, one of the movement's leaders in Gaza, thanks to mediation by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. 'Arafat's Adviser Nabil Sha'th said that the Islamic Jihad Movement and Hamas called on the head of the Palestinian Authority to offer his condolences to the family of the deceased. Sha'th added that the Palestinians must now show they are united.

Palestinian Forces Alliance Mourns

JN0311195694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Statement by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The Zionist occupation authorities have assassinated mujahid [struggler] Hani 'Abid, a university lecturer, a prominent journalist, and a leading member of the Islamic Jihad Movement with a boobytrapped car. The assassination is in implementation of the enemy government's decision to launch a war against the Palestinian opposition by every means.

The assassination of mujahid Hani al-'Abid inside the Gaza Strip, amid complete silence from the subservient self-rule authority, and even in collusion with the occupation authorities in implementation of a pledge which 'Arafat made to President Clinton during his recent Middle East tour, confirms the depth of the crisis facing the occupation authorities and its subordinate self-rule authority, the increasing isolation of 'Arafat and his police and administration from the masses, and the failure of the efforts seeking to weaken and liquidate the valiant intifadah.

The Alliance of Palestinian Forces, which extends condolences to the family of the martyr and his colleagues in the Islamic Jihad Movement, mourns the death of the hero martyr to all our Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic peoples. It also stresses that the assassination is a brazen proof of the fragility of the Oslo-Washington agreement. It also urges the forces of the alliance to pool efforts to escalate the intifadah and struggle through all means until we topple that agreement and until our people achieve their legitimate rights to liberation, repatriation, and national independence. The Alliance also pledges to our masses that the blood of hero martyr Hani al-'Abid will not be in vain.

[Signed] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces

Radio Mourns Death Journalist

JN0311191794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating land and man, announces to the masses of our Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation the death of Palestinian journalist Hani al-'Abid.

Hani al-'Abid collaborated with the staff of al-Quds Radio during its beginnings. He helped spread the intifadah news from Gaza City and Gaza Strip through al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating land and man.

As they bid farewell to one of those who collaborated with them, the staff of al-Quds Radio pledge to the soul of the martyr to preserve and defend the values and the principles that bonded us together in the service of the Palestine question.

God is with us. Victory is near and together we proceed on the path of liberating land and man.

Fatah Rejects 'Arafat Idea for Gaza Meetings

MM0311160594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Central Committee Rejects 'Arafat Proposal for the Committee To Hold Its Future Meetings in Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Fatah's Central Committee has decided to draw up a new mechanism for the continuation of its work in the future. It also decided to hold regular meetings at the beginning of every month in Tunis, al-'Arish, or Cairo.

The committee, however, rejected with an overwhelming majority a proposal submitted by 'Arafat suggesting that the Central Committee meetings be held in Gaza, despite the fact that 'Arafat informed the committee members that he had Rabin's approval for the members to enter the autonomy areas.

These developments occurred at the committee's emergency meeting concluded in Tunis yesterday and attended by President Yasir 'Arafat and the majority of the Central Committee members with the exception of al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and Hakam Bal'awi, who were unable to attend, and Khalid al-Hasan who died in Morocco last month after a long illness.

Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the atmosphere at the meeting was positive and free from tension, particularly as the committee had not met for over four months. That is why, according to the sources, it was necessary to concentrate on the discussion of important issues for lack of time. At the end of the meeting, the Central Committee issued a statement stressing the need for speeding up the drafting of an organizational formula for the participation of Fatah leaders inside [the territories] in the central leaderships on the basis of the movement's bylaws.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that there is an inclination to appoint new members from inside and from abroad in the committee. The most prominent candidates are Faysal al-Husayni, Zakariya al-Agha, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman.

In its statement, the committee emphasized the importance and necessity of regular PLO Executive Committee meetings as it is the body from which the National Authority derives its jurisdiction and it is the central leadership of the Palestinian people wherever they are.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Central Committee members impressed upon 'Arafat the need to hold Executive Committee meetings, bearing in mind that most members are inside [the territories], so as not to undermine the National Authority's jurisdiction.

According to the statement, the committee discussed a comprehensive report submitted by President 'Arafat on the situation inside [the territories] against a background of Israeli intransigence and the siege and closure imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and on the series of agreements concluded with the Israeli Government including the agreements that have been implemented and the ones that have not been implemented because of Israeli dallying and procrastination, especially in connection with the issues of the elections and withdrawal of the Israeli Army from all the towns, villages, and populated areas in the West Bank to make it possible for the National Authority to assume its powers in the rest of the West Bank. The Central Committee also discussed the peace process on the Arab tracks, especially the Jordanian-Israeli track, and the attempts to divide the Arab parties concerned and destroy Arab coordination through a unilateral approach. The committee decided that national and pan-Arab interests necessitated insistence on Arab coordination to prevent future conflicts and to solve the current problems and excesses within a collective and responsible Arab context in order to establish a just and lasting peace in the region.

Sources close to the meeting have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the general trend at the meeting was against escalation of tension with Jordan, the aim being to prevent Israel from exploiting such escalation, particularly on the issue of Jerusalem which is the main issue, not the holy places.

Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meetings focused on numerous important issues, especially the negotiations, relations with Jordan, Hamas, Fatah's internal situation, and relations between the Palestinian National Authority and Fatah. He said that there were long discussions about the performance of the National Authority's insitutions, especially the police force.

Al-Hasan, who is one of those opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, said that it was agreed that the elections inside [the territories] should be held in accordance with the independence declaration which provides for democracy, pluralism, freedom to form parties, and human rights.

Al-Hasan said that Hamas had a right to participate in the elections. He also stressed that it was agreed to calm the situation with Jordan and not to embark on a confrontation that would only benefit Israel. He referred in this connection to the positive statements made by Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan on Jerusalem. Al-Hasan said that there was a problem open to discussion, focusing on the relationship between the National Authority and Fatah and which of the two leads the other: Does the party lead the state or does the state lead the party?

PA's Ghawshah Warns Closure May Lead to Violence

TA3010143794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Oct 94 p B3

[Report on interview with Dr. Samir Ghawshah, PA labor minister, by Ori Nir in Jericho; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking in his little office in Jericho, Dr. Samir Ghawshah, the labor minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA], says he feels like a bound prisoner in an air-conditioned cell. Without being able to send workers to Israel and without receiving international aid to create more jobs as tens of thousands of workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank remain unemployed, Ghawshah admits that his office is almost totally ineffectual.

Ghawshah believes that the closure imposed on the territories by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin harms not only the Palestinian workers in Israel, but the Palestinian society and economy as a whole.

The resulting instability will not only breed poverty but rend the social fabric and preclude the security and stability which are necessary to attract investment. At the same time, the PA's credibility is also undermined.

Just as during his guerrilla days in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Tunisia, as the political leader and military commander of a small Palestinian faction (the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front), he still considers himself a fedayee, a freedom fighter who is prepared to die, but "a different kind of fedayee." Ghawshah still sees himself as someone fighting to liberate the Palestinian people from Israeli occupation but "through other ways," which in his opinion are no less strewn with obstacles, frustration, and anger than the past.

Ghawshah, 52, was born in Jerusalem and is a dentist by profession. He laughingly explains that he preferred "a career as a fedayee over a medical career." In 1967, he fled to Jordan and helped establish his small Marxist-oriented group. In 1974, the organization joined the rejectionist front, which rejected the decision by the PLO mainstream to establish a limited Palestinian state "on any part of liberated Palestinian territory." For several years, Ghawshah enjoyed Iraqi, Libyan, and especially Syrian support. After 1982, his organization established its headquarters in Damascus. Syria supplied him and his 600 fighters with weapons and ammunition to carry out terrorist attacks. Some of his squads attempted to infiltrate into Israel but were unsuccessful in most cases. The two successful terrorist attacks attributed to Ghawshah were planting a bomb in EL Al's Istanbul office in 1970 and a bomb in downtown Jerusalem in May 1975 which killed an Israeli citizen and injured three others. Today Ghawshah has returned to live in Jerusalem and has offices in Gaza city and Jericho.

[HA'ARETZ] What are the ramifications of the closure on the employment situation in the Gaza Strip?

[Ghawshah] They are very serious. According to our data, prior to the closure 24,160 workers out of 28,500 Gazans with entry permits crossed into Israel every day. In other words, the closure affects 26,000 Gaza families and each Palestinian family numbers seven people on average. Before the closure, approximately 30,000 unemployed were registered at our offices. These are just the people who listed themselves. The number of unemployed has now almost doubled. In our estimate, we have reached 45 percent unemployment in the Gaza Strip, without including the workers employed in Israel. This means a steep rise in poverty which has social ramifications.

[HA'ARETZ] For example?

[Ghawshah] Social tension. Crime. Do you remember the riot which took place recently at the Erez checkpoint when they torched buses and went on a rampage? Well, once again you are turning Gaza into a powder keg which can explode at any moment. This has an effect on the public's mental condition. But the problem is bigger than that. The ban on exporting goods and agricultural produce from the Gaza Strip is making things worse. It is not just agricultural produce. If a certain factory cannot export to Israel, and the goods pile up, then one needs less workers and unemployment goes up some more. We have not even begun discussing the political ramifications. The majority of the public expects the peace process to resolve its problems and create job opportunities. The public is learning that instead of resolving problems, the peace process is creating new difficulties. This leads people to take political stands. First of all, they start doubting the process, and the number of those opposed to it increases. Second, they lose faith in the PA. There is mounting frustration and disappointment which may spark a new intifadah. Do not forget that the economic factor was one of the causes behind the intifadah. Besides, this has a detrimental effect on Israel's credibility. People are saying that Israel is not really committed to the agreements it signed or to the peace process. The steps being taken are not indicative of a peace mentality but rather of an occupation mentality. This is collective punishment. The danger lies in not strengthening those who are opposed to the resumption of violence. The occupation has led to violence in the past, and the occupation mentality may well foster violence in the future.

[HA'ARETZ] But these steps are a reaction to Palestinian violence. They are taken out of security considerations.

[Ghawshah] I do not view the security argument as sufficient. Rabin himself said that those who carried out actions detrimental to security were not workers with official permits (to work in Israel). So why are the workers being punished? One should also consider the discrimination, which we regard as racial discrimination, against Palestinian workers.

[HA'ARETZ] What do you mean?

[Ghawshah] Every Israeli laborer receives unemployment compensation. However, when a Palestinian worker is laid off, nobody bothers to compensate him. Here the workers are jobless due to no fault of their own.

[HA'ARETZ] The Israeli Government has now increased the number of foreign workers permitted to work in Israel.

[Ghawshah] We all know that the Palestinian workers are more experienced and better able to communicate with the Israelis. They can reach a higher degree of mutual understanding. The foreign workers are different. They require housing and cause other problems in Israeli society. Crime, and such things.

[HA'ARETZ] Why is there so much bitterness among the Palestinian public regarding the agreement between Israel and Jordan?

[Ghawshah] In principle, we support any agreement between Israel and any Arab country which promotes the peace process. Such agreements, however, are not the solution, since the Palestinian problem was and remains the heart of the conflict. The Palestinians feel left out. We were forced to accept a two-stage arrangement: an interim accord and a permanent arrangement. And then what happens? Israel reaches permanent arrangements with other parties, while still procrastinating over the interim accord with us.

[HA'ARETZ] How does the Palestinian Labor Ministry plan to create new jobs?

[Ghawshah] Our main goal is to reduce unemployment. We had hoped that the agreement with Israel would lead to a rise in the number of Palestinians permitted to work inside the Green Line. However, the exact opposite happened. That is why we are trying to attract investment to create new jobs. But investors need a climate of security and stability. On another level, we are investing efforts in training programs that will help professionals develop skills corresponding to today's international technological advances. We are also trying to pass a bill that will regulate labor relations between employer and employees as well as encourage cooperative ventures.

[HA'ARETZ] Are you disappointed with the small scope of foreign investment in the territories so far, especially on the part of wealthy Palestinians living abroad?

[Ghawshah] Everywhere in the world, foreign investors are interested in seeing profits. Potential investors tell me: 'How can I invest here when there is a strike or closure or something else every day. It is better to invest somewhere else.' The investors hear statements by Ehud Baraq who says that Israel will reconquer Gaza. This has an effect not only on private investors but on the donor countries as well. My feeling is that many people were originally prepared to invest money but have been made hesitant by recent developments. These people keep on asking me: 'When will Israel withdraw? Will it continue implementing the agreement? Will we be given production and marketing incentives?' We are doing the best we can but the main responsibility lies with Israel.

[HA'ARETZ] Why?

[Ghawshah] Because it still has the power. And if it fails to implement the very basis of the agreement it signed—then how can we continue? We cannot permit ourselves to become the veil which conceals an unseen Israeli occupation. This is an impossible situation.

Officials Hail Jordanian Stance on Jerusalem

JN0411114294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Nov 94 pp 1, 18

[Report by Musa Hawamidah in Hebron and Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's statements at the Casablanca conference about handing over the awqaf [religious endowments] to the Palestinians as soon as they receive authority over Jerusalem were widely welcomed by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

In statements to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun, the PNA's minister of health, said: His highness the crown prince's statements eliminated any misunderstanding and it was clear that his highness's statements showed understanding and explained things in a unambiguous manner.

He added that Jordan will take care of the holy places from now until a political solution to the Jerusalem issue is reached, when the PNA can take charge of them, in order to avoid a vacuum. And now, he said, we should say thank you to Jordan.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, the PNA's minister of post and communications, said that His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's statements had eased the tension and that the issue of the holy places is no longer a problem for the Palestinian side.

Al-Ashhab said: All of East Jerusalem is for the Palestinians and is the capital of the Palestinian state. He added that East Jerusalem must return to Palestinian sovereignty and that it is part of the territories occupied in 1967.

On the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, the post minister said: Any progress on any track serves the other tracks. We have supported the agreement, with certain reservations about the agreement's clauses on water, refugees, and Jerusalem. Crown Prince Hasan's statements settled the dispute over Jerusalem. It still remains for us to discuss the issues of water and refugees.

Speaking to AL-DUSTUR from his office in Gaza, Ahmad Sa'id Bayyud al-Tamimi, under secretary of the PNA's Interior Ministry, said that Crown Prince Hasan's statements completely settled the dispute over Jerusalem.

He added: Issues should be settled with the Jordanian side through dialogue. We consider Jordan a country with a special relationship to the Palestinian issue. We are one family and one people. We would like our relationship with the Jordanians to remain close, proceeding from the unity of our goal, traditions, and blood ties.

He said: It is true that from time to time the relations get somewhat heated, but this is a result of political developments in the region. It is natural to have some differences in viewpoints on some issues. However, dialogue and meetings are the ideal way to solve all issues, which is something that will achieve tranquility and peacefulness for our two peoples. We do not deny Jordan's role in supporting the Palestinian cause through the long days. We hope that this support will continue, proceeding from the ties of blood and brotherhood between the two fraternal peoples.

Al-Tamimi said: We consider Jordan and its people the strong backbone of our people and cause. God willing, there will be only joint work to achieve the higher interest of our two peoples. This should lead to positive reflections on the entire region.

PFLP: Casablanca Conference Success for Israel

TA0311185094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p 4

[Report by 'Imad al-Ifranji]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has said that the Casablanca economic conference was a clear expression of the degree of official Arab collapse, of subordination to the United States, and of a disgraceful rush toward and embrace of Israel.

A PFLP press statement distributed to journalists in Gaza yesterday decried the embrace of Israel and the end of the Arab boycott against it at a time when fraternal Arab states, like Iraq and Libya, are being blockaded and boycotted and while Israel still occupies Arab lands, maintains a siege, tightens the economic noose on the Palestinian people, and refuses to recognize Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem.

The PFLP believes the Casablanca conference constitutes a success for the Israeli policy of normalization and expansion after it failed to achieve this goal in the wake of al-Sadat's signing of the Camp David accords. Moreover, the conference turned Israel not only into a recognized state in the Arab homeland, but also into the master of the region.

The statement stressed that the grave official Arab trend does not represent the inclinations of the Arab peoples and nation.

Paper: Casablanca Conference Opened New Era

TA0311184594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p 11

[Editorial: "What Will Happen After the Casablanca Conference?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A careful reading of the final communique issued by the Casablanca economic summit indicates that the countries and individuals who participated in the summit actually want to create from this event a launching pad toward fundamental economic changes in the Middle East and North Africa. Those changes are supposed to foster a stable political climate under which relations of cooperation and free commercial exchanges among the states of this region could be developed in a way that would ultimately lead to the creation of a new economic group comprising the states of the Middle East and the Arab Maghreb.

Perhaps the first thing that catches one's attention in this communique, which can be described as a preliminary announcement on the establishment of that group, is the absence of nationalistic characteristics and the domination of economic tendencies that have been reinforced by the new world order. This, in fact, is evidence of the almost total collapse of traditional Arab frameworks and structures that were set up in conditions of confrontation with Israel, foremost of all the Arab boycott regimes against Israel and its agencies, especially after the Casablanca conference decided to gradually abolish this boycott.

In fact, this communique signifies a promising possibility for the beginning of a new era in the region's history in which barriers are eliminated and everyone moves forward toward prosperity and tranquility. Nevertheless, there is a big difference between announcing a new era and entering into this era and working out practical realities that overcome all current negative aspects and obstacles in order to reach the desired horizons.

Hence, the Palestinian entry into the new era will not be easy, even though the climate of peace has opened the doors wide to an almost complete international understanding of Palestinian security and development needs and despite the fact that since the signing of the Declaration of Principles the Palestinian Authority has received promises and pledges from the donor countries to assist in the establishment of an infrastructure and to support the Palestinian economy during the coming stage.

These countries are supposed to honor their pledges, especially since many Palestinian economic projects the planning of which has already been completed are only waiting for funding. Some Arab and foreign countries are reportedly willing to participate in joint projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This trend must be enhanced and developed in the interest of the Palestinian economy. Nevertheless, the initiatives that emanated from the Casablanca summit, particularly by the donor countries, are not sufficient and do not meet expectations.

Undoubtedly, the Casablanca economic summit is only a first step on a long road. This road must begin with the realization of legitimate Palestinian aspirations, because only this will make the Palestinian people feel that there is justice and fairness, and only this will promote the region's reconstruction and prosperity on sound and firm foundations.

Authority To Receive Armored Vehicles From Russia

TA0311164894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Informed Palestinian sources have said that the Palestinian National Authority will receive from Russia armored vehicles for the Palestinian police forces in Gaza and Jericho. The Russian company supplying the vehicles said that the deal is free of charge. [passage omitted]

These vehicles, 45 of which were requested by the PLO, are of the BRDM-2 type. [passage omitted]

Subayh on Rabin Call To Review Oslo Accord

NC3010103794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine National Council [PNC] secretary and Palestine's representative to the Arab League, has expressed his astonishment at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's request to review the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo agreement, particulary the issues in the agreement relating to security.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Muhammad Subayh said that such a call is considered a dangerous precedent in international relations, particularly since the Oslo agreement was witnessed by U.S. President Bill Clinton and was signed at the White House under the sponsorhip of the United States and the Russian Federation. It has also been included among the UN documents and we have started implementing half the agreement.

Subayh added that this call raises many fears, particularly since Israel is stalling on the implementation of the first part of the agreement. In addition, Mr. Rabin's statement casts black clouds over the optimistic peace atmosphere.

The Palestinian official, PNC Secretary General Muhammad Subayh, has affirmed that the Palestinian people accepted this agreement unwillingly, but are adhering to its implementation to the letter and spirit. Israel has to do the same and implement it according to Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy which topped the Declaration of Principles agreement.

Subayh affirmed again that peace cannot be established except between two parties. He pointed out that such a statement from Rabin encourages extremism, particularly in Israel.

Yitzhaq Rabin told the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the Oslo agreement contains contradictions that need to be rectified so that it can become applicable, particularly in the security field.

Algeria

FIS Leaders' Reimprisonment 'Not Unlikely'

MM0311124094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Cheik Sahraoui Does Not Rule Out Possibility of Reimprisonment of Madani and Belhadj"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—Cheik Abdelbaki Sahraoui, member of the Shura Council of the Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS], has stated that it is not unlikely that FIS leader Abbassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj will be moved from the residence where they are under house arrest and returned to prison, following the failure of the "national dialogue" for which President Liamine Zeroual, in his speech on the 40th anniversary of the Algerian liberation war, held the FIS leaders partly responsible.

Cheik Sahraoui, one of the FIS founders, was answering questions put to him by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at the end of the seminar he held Tuesday evening at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies where he spoke about the Algerian people's struggle for independence, reviewing the most important stages of that struggle up to the current serious situation in the country.

In reply to a question on claims about differences between Madani and Belhadj, Sahraoui denied any differences between the two and said that they had agreed to accept the principle of dialogue provided it is preceded by the elimination of the injustices, including freedom for the FIS leaders to contact, meet, and consult one another.

Asked if Belhadj and Madani were to some extent responsible for the failure of the national dialogue because they did not respond to what were considered by some to be "reconciliatory initiatives" by President Zeroual, the FIS official said that he found such charges strange. Sahraoui said: "How could a person in prison be expected to go to the mountains and reach understanding with his followers? We have no right to make decisions, because we are scattered. Some of us are in prison, some in the United States, and others are in Europe. What is required is that the FIS Shura Council members (27) should be allowed to meet in order to be able to make our decision."

He said that the regime wanted the FIS leaders to go along with its own decisions. He added that the regime sometimes calls for dialogue and other times for confrontation, and makes unilateral decisions, but that method does not figure in FIS calculations.

On President Zeroual's position, Cheik Sahraoui said that he could not say that the Algerian president is not sincere in his efforts to find a solution to the crisis, but he added that President Zeroual is not the regime's decisionmaker and that the generals are pushing him in the direction they want.

Dialogue's Demise Blamed on Distrust of Military

MM0411110694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Two Points of Disagreement Between Algerian Authorities and Salvation Front: General Pardon and Defense and Interior Ministries"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Algerian and Maghreb sources have confirmed that the secret negotiations between the Algerian authorities and the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders reached an advanced stage before their collapse last week. The sources said that the negotiations President Liamine Zeroual initiated at the end of last year before his assumption of the presidency included the questions of power sharing and a mutual pardon between the two sides.

The sources pointed out that the negotiations were obstructed by two major points. The first was the insistence of the authorities and a group of generals that the FIS leave the defense and interior ministries to the generals so that they could guarantee the continuation of the agreement to be reached between them and the FIS. The sources added that the FIS leaders' reply was to neutralize the Army because—in its capacity as "the country's national Army—it is entitled to guarantee public order, hence any agreement reached would fall in that framework."

The sources stressed that the leaders rejected the principle of the generals' assuming the two ministries, because they are not trusted at all. And that they demanded that the cabinet and power question should be left to whatever quarter wins a majority if the canceled elections are completed or new legislative elections are held after a transitional phase under completely normal conditions.

The second point was the mutual pardon question. The two parties accused one another of committing excesses against civilians and the innocent. The sources pointed out that the leaders agreed to the general pardon principle without dropping the personal right of those harmed to take legal action if the people who murdered their relatives are known, or if they know which quarter committed the crime. The FIS accuses members of the "Special Forces" of deliberately killing hundreds of its supporters, who, according to it, are killed at night and their bodies left on the streets. The sources added that the generals said that that would open the door to revenge, hence threatening stability and reconciliation in the future.

The sources believe that the latter issue would have been resolved had the negotiations continued. But "the disagreement focused on the FIS leaders' refusal to offer guarantees that corruption and embezzlement files would not be opened." A source quoted Cheik Abassi Madani as saying: "They are public rights which no one is entitled to abandon without referring to the nation." The generals insisted that the corruption file be closed. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Meets With Province Cadres

LD0311150494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Mostaganem Province the interior minister [Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif] held a meeting with the provinces' cadres. The minister met the cadres and the citizens and listened to their concerns. [passage omitted]

[Begin Cherif recording] Yet the question is still being posed: Why the children? Why the children who had volunteered to join their parents and senior officials of the quarter and the province who were supposed to start the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of our great revolution?

All of us have experienced scouting conditions and all of us remember the joy of volunteering. However, people like us who are relatively old did not meet the same fate because even [French] colonialism used to respect the lives of the children and the innocent. [end recording]

Minister Warns Media To Observe Statutes

LD0311151394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As we promised earlier, we now present to you the letter from Communications Minister Benamar Zerhouni addressed to the publicly owned and privately owned media:

[Begin Zerhouni recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Gentlemen, officials of the publicly and privately owned media, it gives me pleasure to welcome you and to thank you for responding to our invitation. I take this opportunity to extend to you warmest congratulations on the 40th anniversary of Algeria's glorious revolution. The purpose of my request to meet with you today is to read you the text of a letter which each one of you will be receiving from me. This letter will be circulated to all officials responsible for the national, public, and privately owned media.

Gentlemen, the consolidation of democracy, which is one of the established aims of the authorities of the transitional phase, is naturally accompanied by the freedom of political action as well as freedom of the press. It is a choice which has been affirmed more than once and at the highest level by the national authorities. Add to this, and regarding the pluralism of the media and the freedom of the press, the state is making every effort through the assistance it provides to guarantee the prosperity of each one of them. The national press can testify to that.

The state, out of its concern to entrench real democratic practices and traditions in the country, recalls on every occasion the correct bases of media pluralism and the freedom of the press. These bases are manifested in Algeria and in other countries of the world in the preservation of rights and the respecting of duties by every citizen. The Algerian Constitution stipulates this quite clearly in Article 60 which states that all freedoms shall be exercised by every citizen within respect for the recognized rights of others within the Constitution.

With regard to the activity of the press, the law of 3 April 1990 points out the duties of those involved in the media as a profession, especially by way of Articles 3, 36, and 40 coupled with Article Two regarding rights in the media. In consideration of these provisions, which are known to all those concerned, everyone has the right to express astonishment at the increasingly regrettable behavior of the media. Security data about a situation in which the blood of Algerian people is being spilled has become the object of a so-called press scoop. This violates the texts of current laws at the expense of cautious action by the national security forces, sometimes reaching the extent of violating judicial investigation procedures. This provides criminals and murderers with publicity contrary to ethical standards. Added to this is the spreading of false news with much hubbub relating to politics and the circulation of appeals calling for violence. This cannot be acceptable regardless of its reasons. Even the state symbols have been harmed and the fundamental values of national unity and of the Algerian entity have not been spared. We must not forget the reporting of statements by foreign parties which have not hidden their enmity toward Algeria.

It is necessary, therefore, to recall here that such writings and pronouncements are fraught with dangerous meanings. They are, furthermore, being leaked to the Algerian people at a time when they are facing with dignity the most difficult circumstances in their history. And it is journalists themselves who have tragically paid a high price.

Is it worth mentioning here the astonishment of the citizens themselves over this situation?. The situation requires everyone to shoulder his responsibilities. The state is driven by sincere determination to encourage the freedom of the press; it has been encouraging the latter to fulfill its duties and to criticize in a constructive manner, to help in avoiding mistakes or to correct mistakes—including mistakes made by the state.

The state is working for the triumph of democracy; the freedom of the press is a basic constituent of democracy. In the name of this democracy, it is the duty of the state—and particularly its present responsibility—to see that the law is respected—the whole of the law because any breach of the law is considered an infringement of the rights of others.

Proceeding from this spirit, the state calls on the national media to be patient and to absorb the special circumstances of the present situation. In other words, to watch over strict respect for the standards and ethics of the profession. For its part the state will from now on ensure respect for the law by everyone.

'Nihilism' of Political Parties Criticized

LD0311201394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In his speech on the occasion of the 1 November revolution, Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, announced that he was inviting the political forces to talk directly to the people through presidential elections. However, the political parties have shouted back: No.

The political forces could not reach a common platform at the various stages of the dialogue and stubbornly rejected the idea of seeking the people's opinion. But where is the solution at a time when people continue to pay with their lives? Fathi Saidi puts this question in the following report:

[Saidi] The political parties in the national political spectrum have been at loggerheads about nearly everything. It appears, however, that they only agree on one thing: To topple the regime and destroy any form of rule or order in Algeria. In other words, they want to bring about chaos and the law of the jungle.

How on earth could they build the Algeria state at a time when they only believe in nihilism?

Let us first explain very briefly to our dear listeners the meaning of nihilism: Nihilism is an ideology that calls for the destruction of everything; that is, nihilists seek to destroy the world completely and then think how to rebuild it.

However, historical facts have shown that nihilism was the brain-child of abnormal people, people whose minds have been obsessed by rancor, eagerness for blind vengeance, and stupid selfishness. Nihilism is the sign of someone who is absolutely desperate.

Knowingly or not, the parties' rejection of all the efforts of the authorities in place to find a solution to the crisis which has been facing the country is a clear expression of nihilist instinct and inclinations. Yes, the organization and the cancellation of the legislative elections as well as the holding of a referendum on the Constitution, with no guarantee that such a constitution will be respected, were mistakes. Mr. Liamine Zeroual reiterated this fact in his speech on the occasion of the anniversary marking the 1 November revolution.

However, the authorities have proposed, following talks with the parties, a number of forms for the dialogue. But the political parties and the rest of the political forces in the country have blessed the suicidal and nihilist approach. Every side has been trying to realize all its demands at once, which has led to the emergence of reciprocal exclusion.

However, following the head of state's announcement on the organization of presidential elections, in which the people will have the last word, we find the same voices. These voices have always rejected everything and have always said no, making the same noise to cast doubts on the viability of such elections by rejecting them and viewing the decision to hold them as a dictatorial measure.

How remarkable! Where is the solution then in their opinion? How remarkable! Instead of being positive, they are still holding on to their nihilist ideology.

Citizens have, in general, been wondering why the schools? Why the factories? Why the public buses? Why the intellectuals? Why the imams? Why the state's cadres? And finally, why the children? Why are the whole people the target? Blows have been dealt to their interest, property, and public amenities. Blows have been dealt to even their right to life.

Nonetheless, voices can still be heard, calling for intensifying the war against the people. What will be the people's position toward those who have been dealing blows to them in the name of liberation and justice? Are there any other positive means for resolving our situation but violence, total rejection, and stubborn adherence to the realization of all partisan demands at once? Are the parties afraid of the direct dialogue with the people to which President Liamine Zeroual invited them in his speech to the nation on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the glorious November revolution?

Egypt

Paper Criticizes Rabin Government Stance on Peace

NC0411082994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM criticizes Israel's recent deceptive efforts to impose its own concept of peace in the Middle East. The paper says it believes that the Rabin government is nothing but the other face of Shamir's government, which called the West Bank Judaea and Samaria and clung to what it called the land of greater Israel, rejecting any talk about withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

In its editorial today the paper says that all the signs lead to the belief that Rabin's government is nothing but an improved picture of the Shamir government, a conviction resulting from the Rabin government's recent acts on various tracks.

The paper refers to the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo Accord, which has not yet been translated into tangible measures to encourage the Palestinian peace trend, because

Rabin's government is still procrastinating intensely over implementing the first section of the accord on the transitional phase.

The paper says it regrets Israel's attempt to amend the Oslo Accord on the pretext that it contains provisions jeopardizing Israel's security. It stresses that such an attempt will cost the Israeli Government its credibility before Arab and world public opinion.

The paper also says it regrets the Israeli politicians' statements on Jerusalem, indicating that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital. The paper says Jerusalem's future is subject to negotiations during the second phase of the Oslo Accord.

Musa Notes Progress in Syrian-Israeli Talks

NC0311151594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealt with the situation in the Arab world, the Casablanca conference, the peace process in the Middle East, and bilateral Egyptian-UAE relations.

Musa said he briefed President Mubarak today on the outcome of the Casablanca conference. He affirmed that the performance of all the members of the Egyptian delegation was honorable, especially in the economic aspects. [passage omitted]

Regarding Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's visit to Egypt scheduled to begin on Saturday, Musa said Ciller will hold talks with Egyptian officials on bilateral relations and boosting trade and investment in the two countries. [passage omitted] He said Turkey is an important country and that coordination between Turkey and Egypt on future developments is necessary. [passage omitted]

Asked about the extent of the progress in the talks on the Syrian-Israeli track, Musa said there is naturally progress in the talks. Christopher will not resume his contacts unless there is progress in the talks. [sentence as heard] However, no timetable for an Israel withdrawal from the Golan has been presented yet. He stressed that there is some optimism that can be expressed regarding the Syrian track. However, progress in the talks is linked to the principles agreed upon, namely full withdrawal from the Golan, the issue of normalization, and the issue of withdrawal from Lebanon. These are all related issues.

Musa expressed Egypt's readiness to help Lebanon. He said that he discussed with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres the initiative of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Three 'Dangerous Fugitive Terrorists' Killed

NC0311141394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Three dangerous fugitive terrorists were killed in Mallawi, al-Minya Governorate, in Upper Egypt last night.

Information was received that the three terrorists were hiding in a plantation. A police force dispatched to the area clashed with the terrorists, killing all three of them. Various weapons were seized from their bodies.

Reportage on Reactions to Flood, Fire

Al-Bashir Cables Mubarak

NC0311151494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 3 Nov (MENA)—Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has sent a cable of condolences and sympathy to President Husni Mubarak over the victims of and those afflicted by the floods and torrential rains that hit Egypt yesterday, Wednesday.

In the cable, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stated that the Sudanese Government and people had followed with deep concern reports about the rains and floods that swept some Upper Egyptian governorates. He conveyed his condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims and afflicted people, praying God Almighty to preserve Egypt.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih has sent a similar cable to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Health Minister on Casualty Toll

NC0311154994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Asyut, 3 Nov (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi visited the village of Durunkah, which was stricken by floods and fires yesterday. He was accompanied by the ministers of health, social affairs, local administration, petroleum, and supply.

Dr. Sidqi said the government will help the victims of the floods and fires. Those who have become homeless will be sheltered in empty houses in the governorate until new houses are built for them. He asked the citizens of Asyut to donate funds to help the victims, indicating that special bank accounts have been opened to receive donations. He also said that immediate compensation will be paid to the families of the dead and wounded.

Health Minister Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah said the number of dead is approximately 200 and the number of wounded is 70. Some 40 of the wounded have been treated and released while the remaining wounded are in the hospital under full medical care. The prime minister and his aides left Asyut for Cairo.

Interior Ministry Increases Death Toll

NC0311171094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—The number of victims of the fires that broke out in Durunkah village in Asyut Governorate yesterday has risen to 265 persons.

An Interior Ministry source has stated that all fires that broke out in an oil depot in the village have been extinguished. Fire fighting and civil defense teams are continuing their work to rescue the injured.

Floods yesterday swept the governorates of al-Minya, Asyut, Suhaj, and Qina. Local government agencies in the governorates are counting the losses resulting from these floods.

Sidqi To Submit Report

NC0311221494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak in the next few hours about the inspection tour he carried out today with several other ministers to the flood-stricken areas in Asyut Governorate. The tour was made on the president's instructions to learn the facts of the situation and assess the extent of the damage caused by yesterday's heavy rains in every part of the governorate.

Dr. Sidqi said that at the beginning of his tour he held a meeting with the governorate's leading officials and notables, which was also attended by the ministers who accompanied him on his tour. He reported that Asyut Governor Samih al-Sa'id submitted a full report on the flood damage, noting that the death toll has reached 300 people. He also said only 20 injured people remain in the hospitals. [passage omitted]

Writer: Government Uses 'Terrorism' To Serve Goals

NC0211184694 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Oct 94 p 7

[From the "A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan: "The Government Is Exaggerating the Issue of Terrorism in Order to Rule a Frightened People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government is undoubtedly overstating the issue of terrorism for reasons that are absolutely unconnected to terrorism. The government is seeking to control a people who are afraid of the government and of terrorism. As a rule, a frightened people cannot ask for anything because they should be content with a morsel given by the government. Too much talk about terrorism will negate any talk about poor services in the fields of education and health. The talk about terrorism will also overshadow any talk about corruption because everyone will be busy fighting something called terrorism, which is used by the government to terrorize us.

It has become an established, unquestionable fact that the terrorist groups are bunches of misguided youths with insufficient education and no religious backgrounds or political drives. These few people cannot affect or change the rulers, because all their weapons put together cannot stand up against an armored vehicle. This group of youths have no influence on the people because all of them disagree with their actions. The people sympathize with them on just one point: namely ,both are annoyed with the government and its deeds.

All sociologists confirm that terrorism is a short lived phenomenon among a peaceful, tolerant people. But terrorism can benefit from extreme contradictions in a society, such as unemployment among young people and corruption in the government. Unemployed youth can become hot-tempered or blasphemous when they see that they have no hope while the government is spending boundlessly. Poverty can always trigger blasphemy.

The government is exaggerating the issue of terrorism and is overemphasizing such incidents even though this might affect tourism and cause economic stagnation. It is the government which is paving the way for foreign media to distort Egypt's image, because it is the one blowing out of proportion events that occur almost every day in most countries, where democracy, tourism, or economy have never been shaken.

Obviously, the government is doing this deliberately in order to forestall any demand for democracy or any call for civil liberties. The government is exaggerating terrorism in order to keep the emergency law and extraordinary rulings in force and to rule the people with a fist of iron and fire, and all because of a few mobs who cannot harm the state. Furthermore, there are similar groups throughout the world.

But the government is pursuing this policy in order to abrogate the political parties' rights to hold meetings, campaign, and give services to the people. The government knows well that if the opposition were to get closer to the people it would expose the government. That is why the government is closing the doors to the opposition on the pretext of combating terrorism.

We know well—and the government has always been saying it—that there is no connection between terrorism and Islam. Nevertheless, the government opened wide the official media's doors to the enemies of Islam so they can attack al-Azhar, the al-Azhar scholars, and the Egyptian Church, although the government says that terrorism has nothing to do with religion. It is the duty of the government to explain what true Islam is. The enemies of Islam have stepped up their attacks on the scholars of Islam and the church. They even falsely attributed statements to them. The enemies of Islam are opposed to true fatwas; they claim that the al-Azhar was behind the attack on the great writer Najib Mahfuz. This is all false, because al-Azhar said nothing against Mahfuz. It only banned his novel in 1960, 34 years ago. Investigation proved that the attackers had never read his novel. They received instructions, which they carried out without even thinking for a moment.

The greatest mistake of the terrorist groups is that they gave a chance to the enemies of Islam to attack Islam. Attacking Islam has become an way to rise to fame and find yourself a seat in the government media.

Morocco

King Hassan Interviewed on Democracy, Violence

LD0311141394 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov. 03 (MAP)—Islam does not ban any modern way of life. It rathers recommends a certain reserve and a sense of the family and values, King Hassan II said in an interview with US 'CNN International'.

To be a Moslem is not anti-democratic. It is an image that we make and we should not judge Islam on the basis of the behavior of some moslems, the sovereign said.

'It will not upset me to be a Moslem in a democracy other than that of Morocco'. 'Democracy is a way of life. And everyone is free to chose his own way of life', King Hassan II said.

Democracy cannot be imposed. All political leaders and militants of the independence era of the United States lived in France, in England, they were colonized by England, but they did not choose any of the two democracies. They rather made their own democracy, he added. The USA has now the record of constitutional longevity while France changed its constitution 19 times, the sovereign said.

On the political reforms conducted by Morocco, King Hassan II said there is much to be done. No system is perfect. [Words indistinct] should think of changimg and improving every [words indistinct]. 'I myself daily think of reforms because life changes and evolves', he said.

To a question on how to deal with terrorist acts like the one that claimed over 20 lives in Tel Aviv lately the sovereign said 'we should be realistic and expect similar acts and we should continue to go ahead with the peace process'.

Unfortunately, violence has become a fashion that knows no country, no borders, no race and no religion, he said, before noting that this violence is the product of political and social atmosphere.

Israel's Peres Dedicates Liaison Office in Rabat

LD0311160794 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov. 3 (MAP)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres dedicated Tuesday [1 November] Israel's liaison office in Rabat.

The opening of an Israeli liaison office in Morocco was decided last September. It will be headed by David Dadon who served as director of relations with Arab countries at the Foreign Ministry.

Morocco also decided to open two liaison offices, one in Tel Aviv headed by Talal Ghufrani and the second in Gaza to be chaired by Col. Major Mohamed Abdeslam Sinaceur.

At the dedication ceremony, the Israeli foreign minister said that in the Casablanca economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa (October 30-November 1), Israel has reached results that it has been seeking all its life: The end of the Arab economic boycott. He pointed out that the Casablanca summit is a turning point for all peoples of the Mediterranean and the Middle East and the declaration adopted is the best ever reached in Arab-Israel relations.

In another statement to MAP, Peres said the summit was a historic event and a success thanks to H.M. King Hassan II and to the Moroccan people. We have changed the policy and the future of the Middle East in two days, he added.

On his part, David Dadon who was appointed head of the liaison office told MAP the opening of this representation is another step in the peace process, the Israeli people is grateful to King Hassan II for his wise and pertinent policy. He added that the Mediterranean region needs that all countries join efforts to set up an important market.

Israel and Morocco can set joint ventures and export to Europe and the USA, and this can also be applied with Jordanians and Palestinains.

The opening ceremony was attended by Israeli finance minister as well as some members of the Jewish community in Morocco.

Sudan

Al-Turabi on Islamic Revival, Iran, Iraq

BR0311141394 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 3 Nov 94 p 20

[Interview with Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi by Fabio Scuto; place and date not given: "Islam's Strategist: 'We Are the Future'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum—[passage omitted] [Scuto] You enjoy great influence in the Maghreb and the Arab world. Europe is now afraid of the Arab and Islamic revival.

[Al-Turabi] The Western and Islamic civilizations have influenced each other. We must now emphasize these positive phenomena, and not the clash between these cultures. It is no coincidence that this Islamic revival is led by people educated in the West. The development of these relations between the West and Islam is the only solution: This is why I am making a personal effort for the sake of a dialogue between southern Europe and the Middle East.

[Scuto] But Europe's perception of this "revival" is connected to the internal conflicts affecting the Arab countries and the Maghreb. I am thinking about the Algerian crisis, with which you are well acquainted, the constant killing of foreigners, or Egypt, where tourists are shot at...

[Al-Turabi] These countries are going through an internal revolution, and the Islamic revival is suffering fierce repression and is forced to resist, to use force against force. Of course, these movements' response often goes too far, but Europe still presents itself as the best ally of the old regimes. Personally, I reject this violence which hits innocent people, but your country and Europe must not confine yourselves to spontaneous assessments: You must form a strategic analysis of these phenomena.

[Scuto] With regard to the Algerian crisis, what is your opinion of the stance adopted by Italy, which distanced itself from France with its open invitation to the Islamic movement to engage in dialogue?

[Al-Turabi] At present I am trying to promote a dialogue on a different basis between the Islamic movement and the Algerian Government that will involve Italy, too. I have a great deal of respect for the change of course made by your country. Ever since 1992 (the year of the military coup in Algeria—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note) I have been trying to persuade the French to change their stance, telling them: "You cannot stop history." If the Algerian powder keg explodes, the consequences will be paid for by the whole of southern Europe. Obviously the military option is a desperate one, which is why we have urged Algeria's FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] to take up the offer of a dialogue with the regime.

[Scuto] Do you mean that you are the "mediator" between the Algerian extremists and the government?

[Al-Turabi] It is a dialogue that started under our sponsorship, though, partly to avoid embarrassment, I declined to perform a leading role and have remained behind the scenes.

[Scuto] Is there likely to be an Islamic revolution on the shores of the Mediterranean?

[Al-Turabi] The post-colonial regimes have been disastrous. The birth of the Islamic movements is a tendency of rebellion which is nurtured by sharp and violent slogans, but they are unable to translate this rebellion into programs and strategies. We must bring development to these countries—not a holy war.

[Scuto] You talk about mediation, but several Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, accuse you of interference in their internal affairs.

[Al-Turabi] That is not true. The fact is that for the Saudis Sudan represents a different kind of Islam, more modern and more open, which is why they fear us.

[Scuto] Why does the United States accuse you of terrorism, if the Islam that you propose is open and modern?

[Al-Turabi] I know the American people well: They know nothing about Islam in general or about Sudan. They level charges at my country, but the number of political prisoners in Sudan is 1 percent of those held in Saudi Arabia, Algeria, or Egypt. They accuse us of terrorism, but they do not have a single piece of evidence to show. The United States wanted to trap us through the business of Carlos, the terrorist, but that was a bomb that exploded in their own face.

[Scuto] But the United States says that you were behind the attack on the World Trade Center.

[Al-Turabi] Those are lies, which they are able to sustain thanks to their military strength and their strength in the media. They put words in my mouth that I never said. They accuse us of harboring Iranian pasdaran and many other things: I have never seen even an Iranian trader here; we have neither trade nor cultural exchanges; only their diplomats are here.

[Scuto] So what is the status of your relations with Iran?

[Al-Turabi] There was an Islamic revolution in Iran; here in our country merely an Islamic evolution. Only those who look at these things from far away believe that they can see points in common, which in fact do not exist. We are different. Our evolution is not oriented externally, and above all it is peaceful.

[Scuto] What do you think about the UN embargo against Saddam's Iraq?

[Al-Turabi] We condemned the invasion of Kuwait and urged an Arab solution to that conflict. Then we realized that the Western intervention was not only intended to liberate Kuwait, but that its purpose was also to halt Iraq's technological development. A weak and divided Iraq suits many people; I hope that that country will soon take another path.

[Scuto] You know 'Arafat well. What do you think of the agreement signed with Israel?

[AL-Turabi] 'Arafat had to drink a very bitter cup. The United Nations envisages the existence in those lands of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, but this has not happened. 'Arafat was supposed to be a chief of state, but now he is merely the mayor of a ruined city.

[Scuto] Everyone comes here to your country, Shaykh al-Turabi: peaceful Islamic movements, those that cite the holy war, terrorists. Is their presence not an embarrassment to those engaged in a dialogue with the Vatican?

[Al-Turabi] There is no embarrassment. It is the Vatican that wants to unite all religions against this modern world without ethics or values, and we are in complete agreement on this.

[Scuto] What did Sudan secure from France in exchange for Carlos, "the jackal"?

[Al-Turabi] The price was the blow dealt to the Americans, who wanted to arrest Carlos. The French dared to defy the Americans, and that itself was a good price.

Official on Relations With Uganda, Saudi Arabia

EA0211213094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, has confirmed that Ugandan-Sudanese relations are old, firm, and historical and that the leadership of both countries will be able to overcome any problem obstructing relations between the two countries in this period. He said despite foreign interference, Sudan is eager to overcome the obstacles. He expressed his hope, at the Foreign Ministry's regular forum yesterday, that Uganda will play a positive role in assisting and supporting the Sudanese peace negotiations for the urgent achievement of peace despite the unforeseen differences that have occurred between the two countries.

Meanwhile, His Excellency described Saudi-Sudanese relations to journalists as historical relations. He confirmed Sudan's eagerness to promote these relations in various fields. He said recalling diplomats is a routine measure that takes place with the aim of eliminating existing obstacles and promoting relations and that it is an attempt to heal the Arab rift.

Egypt Asked To Extradite Airline Hijacker

AB2710124894 Paris AFP in English 1106 GMT 27 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (AFP)—Sudan has called on Egyptian authorities to extradite a Sudanese national who hijacked an airliner to neighbouring Egypt last April, the daily AL- SUDAN AL-HADITH reported Wednesday [26 October]. Sudanese Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddo said Egypt should comply with a criminal extradition agreement in existence between the two countries and hand over Adel Mahjoub to stand trial in Sudan.

Commenting on a report from Cairo that Hussein [name as received] is presently being tried in Egypt, Shiddo admitted that the Egyptian authorities were acting in accordance with international laws but said that was not enough. Mahjoub, 26, was brought before the high state security court in Cairo on October 18 and charged with carrying out the armed hijacking of a Sudan Airways plane on April 6, Egyptian judicial sources said. He is accused of threatening the pilots and forcing them to take the plane, which had been on an internal flight from Khartoum to Dongola in northern Sudan, to Luxor in Egypt.

UNICEF Denies Charges in Child Kidnappings

AB2510212494 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 25 Oct 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sudanese Government has accused two UN agencies of turning a blind eye to the alleged kidnapping of thousands of children by the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels. Khartoum claims that they have been forced into battle after being conscripted in refugee camps near the southern Sudanese border. The two agencies in the firing line are UNHCR and UNICEF, which is the lead agency in the UN's Operation Life Line Sudan [OLLS]. On the line to Nairobi, Josephine Hazely asked UNICEF's chief of operations, Philip O'Brien, how he pleaded to the Sudanese Government's charges.

[Begin recording] [O'Brien] I think not guilty. We (?certainly) are aware that a number of children went back to Sudan, who had been displaced through Ethiopia and ended up in (Kacopa), a refugee camp in north of Kenya. I don't believe, and I think UNHCR would agree, these children were certainly not kidnapped in any strict sense of the word kidnapped. There is always pressure; there is always incentives in some ways for young children to return home, particularly children who have been separated from their families as many of these minors have for a long period of time.

[Hazely] Are you denying then that you have no experience of witnessing young Sudanese children fighting for one of the rebel groups?

[O'Brien] I think anybody who has been in south Sudan would say that there is certainly what could be considered by soldiers involved in the war on (?many) and all sides, either in militias or more formally in the Armies. [sentence as heard] I think that is certainly an issue, and I think we have got to use every means of diplomacy and advocacy with everybody concerned in the conflict to ensure that young children, young boys under the age of 15, who should be protected by the Convention on the Rights of the Child [CRC], are not exposed to the ravages of conflict and are not used as boy soldiers.

[Hazely] Now, how much protection does UNICEF—because you are the organ that is supposed to look after kids—how much protection does UNICEF give to children that are in camps, like in Kenya, Zaire, and Uganda, to prevent them being taken by these rebels to fight?

[O'Brien] Well, that is a question.... [pauses] You have to address that question to the UNHCR, because OLLS has no mandate to work in Kenya, Uganda, or Zaire. We work in southern Sudan and in Sudan, with the SPLA, we have done a number of things and doing more to promote within the SPLA, particularly, the idea that the CRC is very strict on the way children should be treated in war, not just in terms of not being used as boy soldiers or support for the army's [word indistinct] fighters, but that they should have the right to protection from the ravages of conflict and they have right to [words indistinct] can be given to them in a situation of civil war.

[Hazely] You say you have been putting pressure on the SPLA inside Sudan, for which you have a mandate to operate, but perhaps the Government of Sudan might say you are not doing enough, because they don't hear you raising the issue and making a fuss about it.

[O'Brien] I think we would say we are not doing enough. I think there is always more that can be done. There is certainly.... [pauses] We need to do a lot more education, reorientation, and training with people in leadership positions within the SPLA. [end recording]

Minister Clarifies Statement on Press, Ministry

EA2910154594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information, has strongly denied that he called for the subordination of the press to his ministry or for newspapers to be placed under the supervision of the information minister. He said in an interview published in today's edition of the AL-INQADH AL-WATANI newspaper, that what he had said was about the complete removal of the role of the information minister from what was going on in the press arena, whether through the press and publications council or any supervision that put the minister in his natural position of someone concerned with the media issue. [sentence as heard]

He affirmed that he had not said and would not say that the Information Ministry ought to act as a censor of newspapers again. All that he demanded was the reform of the press and publications council to give the ministry a part in the running of this council. He added it was not sensible for the information minister to be far from an effective media body and a possessor of authority [as heard] such as the press. He pointed out that newspapers in the era of the National Salvation Revolution were not censored and that he did not accept to be a censor of writers, adding that they were confident of the press's ability to express the issues and concerns of the homeland as clearly as we expressed them.

About what was being raised about the sports and social pages [in newspapers], the culture and information minister said he had noticed they were inclined to sensationalism and exaggeration. However, in spite of that, he was of the opinion that they could be reformed calmly and that there was no need for immediate suspension. He said that this could be achieved by submitting observations about their performance, notifying the newspaper of them and specifying them to it, and then giving it a chance to reform. It's chief editor would be summoned if he did not abide by them. After that, it would be possible to resort to closure if the newspaper insisted on continuing these contraventions.

Committee for National Information Network Formed

EA0411111594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Summary] Dr. Awadh Ahmad al-Jaz, the minister of the presidency for the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree establishing an advisory committee for the National Information Network under the chairmanship of Professor Izz al-Din Muhammad 'Uthman, the chancellor of Sudan's University of Science and Technology.

Bahrain

Minister Urges Plan To Boost Region's Economy

MM0311124494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Mu'ayyad Calls for 'Christopher Plan' To Boost Development in the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad has urged the Arab states to follow Europe's example in renouncing their disputes and accepting the existing borders among them. He said that the lesson learned from the Gulf war is that neighbors need to acknowledge that internationally recognized borders cannot be altered by force. He said that ending this kind of dispute would enable states to focus on development.

The minister put this in the context of the Casablanca economic summit, saying that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke there about the investments required in new economic spheres like tourism. He stressed the need for a "Christopher Plan" similar to the the U.S. "Marshal Plan" which boosted Europe's economy after World War II.

Minister al-Mu'ayyad's lecture was entitled "The Arabs Under the New World Order." He delivered the lecture at a banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel in London on Tuesday evening. Two hundred people were present, among them a number of Arab ambassadors and Arab and foreign dignitaries.

The Bahraini information minister compared the present Arab situation with Europe's in the fifties and sixties when it took its first steps toward economic union. He called for enacting the economic and trade agreements concluded through the Arab League to form blocs that have common economic interests. Especially as the European Union prefers to deal with blocs, not separate states.

After an initial statement the minister fielded questions. He denied that Bahrain does not want to refer the dispute with Qatar to the International Court of Justice. He said that the court imposed the condition that all points concerning the dispute be submitted before it can act as an arbiter. He added: "We announced two weeks ago that one of the two parties is objecting to submitting some points, including those concerning the al-Zubarah area."

Commenting, Qatari Ambassador 'Ali Jidah said: "It seems that the new world order is established on the basis of Bahrain's retaining the Hawar area." He pointed out that "the best civilized method" of resolving disputes is "bilateral negotiation, arbitration, or referring to court."

'Abdallah Bisharah, chairman of the board of the Gulf Center for Strategic Studies and former secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, said: "We, in our region, believe that oppression is on its way to defeat. We believe that the region is approaching a dawn of tolerance and mutual respect."

The banquet was organized by 'Abdallah Bisharah and the center's director Dr. 'Umar al-Hasan.

Kuwait

Interior Minister Stresses Country's Stability

NC0411094094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 4 Nov (MENA)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has stated that security in the country is now stable and under full control. He said the government will allow no one and no group to undermine this stability after Kuwait's gains following the recent crisis.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent, he said the recent crisis proved again that the Kuwaitis are united despite some violations of the law and variance in views. In hard times, he added, everyone is committed to the defense of his country.

He noted that the rate of ordinary crimes decreased significantly during the crisis, thanks to the intense security measures. He affirmed the security forces' ability to maintain the domestic front and ensure safety and security for all the citizens of Kuwait.

He said most of what was called the fifth column, which did not exist in the past, has now been eliminated, which is testimony to the Kuwaiti security forces' success with the help of Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates. He noted that no subversion or terrorist attempts were recorded during the crisis.

The Kuwaiti interior minister addressed an explicit warning to the Iraqi regime not to try again to tamper with Kuwait's security. He asserted that the Kuwaitis are intent on preserving their country's security and peace, benefiting from lessons of the past no matter what the sacrifices are.

Qatar

Foreign Minister Discusses Ties With Iran

LD3010112694 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jaber Al Thani, in a meeting Saturday [29 October] in Doha with the Iranian ambassador Mohammad Baqer Safa'i said his country attaches great importance to its ties with Iran. He also announced his country's readiness to take required measures to promote bilateral relations specially in economic and commercial fields. Referring to the recent crisis in the Persian Gulf region, Al Thani reiterated that the crisis is not to the benefit of the regional states. Therefore, he added, all countries should try to settle problems in such a way that creation of new crisis in the region is prevented. Bilateral cooperation as well as various regional developments were among other topics discussed in the meeting.

Saudi Arabia

Prince's Address to Islamic Council Highlighted

LD0311142694 Riyadh SPA in English 1231 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 3, SPA—Saudi Arabic language newspapers published in the kingdom gave prominence editorially to president the kingdom's concept about peace and its leading Islamic role. [sentence as received]

Jeddah-based 'UKAZ said the kingdom's Islamic attitudes and commitment to the Islamic creed in all its affairs are to thank for its unique stable and secure example in a turbulent world. The paper said Moslems everywhere always look to the kingdom whose sincere efforts to serve Islam and Moslems puts their true believing minds at ease.

Commenting on the same issue, Mecca-based AL-NADWAH pointed to the statements of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz at the first meeting of the Supreme Islamic Affairs Council in which he pointed to Saudi assistance to sisterly states which is motivated by the kingdom's Islamic and humanitarian duty and could not be further from political or other goals. The paper said these statements stress the Saudi position on rejecting interference in other countries' affairs.

Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH pointed out that peace is the [words indistinct] that peace is the stability that fills the gap between social strata and cuts off users of the cruelty of harsh living conditions in many countries. It said real peace requires social development in the first place, which is the conviction behind Saudi plans and policies.

Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the kingdom will always remain at the core of the Arab and Islamic worlds and the Islamic minaret that illuminates all that is around it with goodness, peace, security and stability.

Al-Dammam-based AL-YAWM said Saddam's irrational act against Kuwait was in fact a work of the devil, and it was natural for the kingdom to defend the emirate and itself with the help of brothers and friends who agree that aggression in itself is a flagrant violation of the principles of international legitimacy.

Super Light Crude Exports To Begin

LD0311123094 Riyadh SPA in English 1218 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 3, SPA—Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir told SPA Wednesday [2 November] that the kingdom will start selling light crude oil from the central region oil fields as of mid November. He said the first shipment, 900,000 barrels sold to a Japanese company, will be shipped from Yanbu' port. He added that the super light crude is the best brand produced by Saudi Aramco at the present time and stressed that it exceeds most types of crude oil in quality with a 50.4 density and no more than 0.43 percent sulphur and metal gangue. He said drilling al-Hawtah area started in 1987, and al-Hawtah 1 field was discovered in 1989, and other fields were discovered in 1990.

Clinton Administration, Mideast Tour Criticized

JN0311160694 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Oct 94 pp 1, 3

["Viewpoint" by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "Mr. Clinton: We Have the Evidence; Hear Us Out"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Several American journalists have recently asked me the following question: Why do you use strong language in your media when addressing the U.S. Administration, even though you are a small, besieged nation while the United States is a powerful country feared by major powers and nations? I answered him: Do you listen carefully to the language of your president, his secretaries of state and defense, and his aged, very polite representative to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, when they address Iraq? If you have, then you must have noticed that the most salient features of their language are impudence, impoliteness, and contempt for international diplomatic etiquette. Those whom I have mentioned refer to my president without any official titles. At other times, they use the most impudent adjectives that prejudice Iraq's sovereignty. Therefore, and as a principle of reciprocity, we use a frank language that calls a spade a spade, without using any impudent or impolite language and with all due respect to your president and officials.

I also would like you to note—and I am still speaking to those who have asked me the above question—that the U.S. Administration is waging an all-out war—military, economic, and psychological—against the people of Iraq. The war has claimed the lives of more than 1 million Iraqis, and it is still continuing. How can you, therefore, expect a people who are experiencing genocide to speak to you in the same way as those who lead a comfortable life under normal circumstances. In fact, the strong language is a natural reaction to major criminal action. Do you even want to deprive us of our right to strong rhetoric in exposing your crimes?

Mr. President Bill Clinton: I am addressing you in order to explain to you why you are going to hear words that you may find strange, having heard words by some other Arabs who speak in the language of the "obedient student" who is skilled in the art of giving up his tongue, stand, and history just because he is very eager to remain in power.

First of all, I apologize in advance for any disturbance I may cause to you. You should know, however, that every single word I will utter expresses a profound conviction held by the people of all the Arab countries you have visited, as part of the U.S. election carnival, which you have now moved abroad. My words express, therefore, absolute truths which we will impose on you or on the person who will soon succeed you, in the name of freedom, adherence to national dignity, the honor of the Arab nation, and the purity of great Islam.

I am addressing you as an Arab citizen, without any official capacity, to tell you what my fellow citizens in Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, occupied Palestine, and elsewhere think. I have heard you say things that are close to fiction. I would not speak lies; God forbid that the U.S. President should lie, having promised that he would make human rights the first item on his foreign policy agenda. We have seen you carry the sword of human rights to behead thousands of people daily on all continents.

Stay calm, Mr. President, and do not fly into a temper lest "sweet Paula" should notice this. Mark my words because democracy—a basic human right—tells us that we must listen to all views. You have used the language of genocide, murder, and threats when you addressed the majority of Arabs and Muslims on the soil of Egypt and Jordan. Apparently, you have not carefully read the intelligence reports about the reaction of the Arab street to your visits and speeches. You have indeed seen this reaction in the unprecedented security measures, even in occupied Palestine, to the extent that members of the Zionist Knesset were not allowed to turn around or move about while you were there. Therefore, I must tell you the truth which you sought to bury, along with your youthful past, by just remembering your past as Arkansas governor.

How shall I begin my conversation with you, president of the strongest country in the world? You may smile and say in your confused mind: This man knows I like to be described as the president of the strongest country in the world. Imagine whatever you wish, Mr. President. What I will say is just part and not the whole truth, because the whole truth will take days if I make you lie on the couch, remove the results of the brainwashing process to which you were exposed, and restore your conscience and the purity of your mind, even though I believe that broken glass cannot be repaired. The couch is used by psychiatrists for their patients. Have you remembered it? I think so, because you know that every American family has a psychiatrist. This is one of the blessings of the American way of life, which you say you want to export to other parts of the world! Do you agree to have an Iraqi psychiatrist, who will not deceive you, as dozens of American psychiatrists around you are doing because they themselves are psychologically ill and because the sides that employ them want them to keep you obedient, like Ronald Reagan after his assassination attempt? The U.S. president who disobeys the American Mafia will face the fate of your forerunner, John Kennedy.

Let us begin with the story of beautiful Paula Jones, whom I have just mentioned. When you heard the name, you were upset and you turned to Hillary and smiled in her face without any apparent reason. Mr. President, you must know why we will begin with Paula. When you visited my Arab homeland, you talked like a preacher and like a man who is responsible for the world. That attitude raised the following idea: He who cannot be trusted in his treatment of a young woman in his country, although he is a powerful ruler, and he who tries to force women to sleep with him cannot be the ruler of the world or an integral reformist.

We have learned from our Arab Islamic history and from the wisdom of the peoples of the East, particularly China and India. I say we have learned things that you do not know in the Western civilization. One of these things is that he who assumes power should differentiate between his personal desires and his authority. The Arabs say that the ruler is like a father of the people and not a wolf that tears their flesh. History also says that if the ruler uses his authority to gratify his personal desires, then this will mean the beginning of his inevitable fall.

Mr. Clinton, you were accused several times in the United States, and each of these accusations is enough to strip you of your authority, if only the Mafia that governs the United States wants that. I would like to remind you of what the Mafia did to Gary Hart, a former U.S. presidential candidate, who was destroyed by the Mafia of the mass media organs for his relationship with a woman. Forgive me if I introduce Paula to the Arab citizen. You forced me to do that. He who spoke like a preacher and described the Arabs and Muslims as terrorists and killers and as representing the past—that false and hostile preacher who insulted the Arabs and their prophet, Muhammad, in their own homeland and who desecrated religion and Arabism with his mean views—should be exposed to the Arab citizens.

A few days ago, I read a report in a U.S. newspaper that you may have read too. The report says that Paula Jones filed a suit against you because you assaulted her sexually when you were Arkansas governor in 1991. Paula asserts that she faces many difficulties in addressing public opinion. The freedom of the press in your country has reached so a high level that THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST, the two biggest newspapers, have refused to publish her story, but published just a brief news item, although the story is very exciting, even in the viewpoint of the press.

Paula says she has evidence and she wants people to listen to her. It seems that her evidence is categorical. She says she has an envelope containing a description of marks on President Clinton's body. She says she saw them when he summoned her and tried to force her to have a certain kind of sex with him at the Excelsior Hotel in the town of Hope in Arkansas.

You saw her at the hotel while she was working as a secretary. One of the state's guards asked her to see you and she believed you would dictate a message to her. But she was stunned when you asked her to have sex with you. She resisted and ran away.

Paula Jones says she is telling the truth and that your denial is useless. She asks the court to open the envelop and read a description of the marks on your body. How could she see these marks if you did not take off all or some of your clothes before her?

What Paula has said would help us, Mr. President, understand a strange phenomenon—namely, you did not exploit the opportunity to swim in the Dead Sea while you were near it in this warm weather. One of your old desires was to see and swim in the sea, because all seas in the world are alive except this miserable sea, which died because of pollution and the pain over what happened and what is happening. You came quickly to perform an exciting election show in which you would be seen swimming in the Dead Sea while Jews and Arabs clap for you or join you in the swimming.

Yes, you wanted to swim in this interesting Dead Sea. However, you did not swim despite people's insistence because Paula's threats were violent, effective, and logical. You were afraid that some people would see you naked while swimming, and if the court accepted Paula's proposal to examine your body, your Arab friends will realize that Paula was saying the truth.

Mr. President: Paula greets you warmly and she is still repeating with the voice of an oppressed woman: "I have the evidence and I want you to hear me out." Now that you are standing, for the first time in your life, in an area to the south of Iraq, where you can hear an Iraqi farmer singing while cultivating his land, we, in Iraq, also say to you: We have the evidence and we want you, Your Excellency the President, to hear us out.

I have seen all your speeches on the CNN, listened carefully to your statements, and have written down initial observations about them.

Before discussing what you said in Cairo and Amman, would you allow me, Mr. President, to express my deep admiration for the words which you have chosen in your speeches, their eloquence, their deep meanings, and their familiarity with history and religion, as well as their cognizance of the psychology of the Arabs and Muslims. You looked fantastic while delivering your speeches. What made you more fantastic are the attractive movements of your hands and face. You are an "artist" in synchronizing movements with words. One who sees you speaking will think that your hoarse voice is the voice a good preacher, not that of "a sex maniac", as you were described by your mistress Jennifer Flowers in her interview with "the very decent family" sex magazine PENTHOUSE, or as you were described by the sweet and poor Paula.

The people of the East are so good that they enjoy good words accompanied by studied movements. This is what your advisers told you before leaving America: Be careful, Mr. President, the Arabs are a people who become drunk when they hear sweet words and promises. Therefore, let them drink the wine which makes them victorious while they are defeated and which turns their desert into paradise while plants and animals are, in fact, dying there.

Yes, I very much admired your speeches, but my only objection is "very, very simple." You did not write one single letter of the speeches you delivered in Cairo, Jordan, and other places and you knew nothing of their contents.

In your speeches, you dealt with ideas which are larger than your brain and deeper than your very simple ideas, which do not exceed "satisfying" your daily needs. How did you suddenly become a theorist, religious reformer, peace advocate, and psychiatrist? The answer is simple: It is no secret that U.S. presidents and senior officials know nothing about the speeches they deliver because they are prepared by many specialized experts who draft what other sides decide should be said and underscored.

Then comes the role of the director, scenario writer, and cosmetician. You sit for days to learn by heart ideas and words. Then, the director and scenario writer come to teach you how to smile, when to bow, where to extend your hand, and when to raise or lower your voice. The U.S. president does not go to people before "arranging" his ideas, statements, movements, jokes, clothes, and make-up.

Therefore, allow me, Mr. President, to say to you that your wonderful speeches and movements are the characteristic of a skilled actor who is playing a role in which he was trained.

I can see that you have become furious, Mr. President, although you hear this in America many times a month. Therefore, I can say that your anger is the result of a racist motive. I, the Arab Muslim, have no right to say the truth, while the Americans and Europeans can say it to you and you smile at an expression of "your democracy!" There, you exchange smiles after you are criticized, even when you are slapped, because you care very much about votes. Here, however, there are no votes. Therefore, you become nervous when you are criticized and begin to take the cover off your face, and maybe your clothes, as you did with Paula.

When you arrived in Cairo and met with your friend, the genius, the intellectual, and the righteous Husni Mubarak, you naturally paid tribute to him. We could have considered this some form of diplomatic courtesy. However, very regrettably, Mr. U.S. President, you borrowed the language of some Arab leaders and began to talk about the "Egyptian example of peace" which must be emulated. In order not to do you injustice, I will repeat what you have said verbatim: "Egypt's courageous example set at Camp David has paved the way to the historic progress we celebrate on this day. This region and the entire world owe you and your people a deep debt of gratitude."

Do you know a person called Machiavelli? In the United States you are used to getting a briefing about everything, exactly like making instant food—easy, fast, and little food—such as Burger King, McDonalds, and others. Therefore, I would assume that your advisers have told you, very briefly, about Machiavelli. But the "Presidential briefing" in the United States is meant to make the President uneducated and not educate him. The only thing you know about Machiavelli is that he is a political author who set out a theory on how to run a state based on giving priority to practical considerations and not values or principles. Such a theory serves the United States' pragmatic course because Machiavelli's theory is the best expression of the U.S. pragmatic philosophy.

Maybe, and we say maybe in order not to do you injustice, you do not know that Machiavelli teaches rulers a "golden principle" about how to influence the masses. He says: If you wish to introduce a nonexistent idea, then lie, lie, and lie again. In the first time, the majority will reject the lie, but you will find some people who will believe it. In the second, you will find more people who believe it, thus you create a base of believers and applauders. If you repeat the lie for the third or fourth time, then amid the applause of the hooligans, you yourself will believe the lie.

What you did in Cairo, Mr. President, was to fall victim to an old U.S. lie: that the two Camp David accords have established peace between Egypt and the Zionist entity. You backed this with another lie: that the Egyptian-Zionist example of peace must be emulated. Are you serious, Mr. President? Do you think the Egyptian people who heard you will view you seriously and with respect when you say that?

I know I am addressing a living robot, but let me remind you of some very simple facts which you can comprehend. The first fact, of which I wish to remind you, and which your intelligence services must have confirmed to you, is that 15 years after the signing of the two Camp David accords and the attempts to establish Egyptian-Zionist normalization, the overwhelming majority of the Egyptian people are against normalization. Did your aides not tell you that the Arab Artists Union, which has the biggest and most important branch in Egypt, denounced and rejected, through its Egyptian President Sa'd-al-Din Wahbah, the normalization attempts in a news conference he held in Cairo on 27 October 1994. Did they not tell you that in response to you and your speech in Cairo and what the Tel Aviv authorities have said—that the cultural and artistic relations between the Arabs and the Zionist entity will be normalized—Wahbah said: "This is a fantasy, because the Arab-Zionist conflict continues and the Arab people from the Ocean to the Gulf reject any cultural or artistic relations with the Zionist entity."

Sa'd-al-Din Wahbah is an Egyptian who is not against the Husni Muabark regime. He, however, was expressing the position of all of Egypt. If you want to be precise in what you say, I urge you to ask your subordinate Husni Mubarak, who always answers your requests with "yes, Sir" or "right now, Sir", to give you the number of Egyptians who visited the Zionist entity in 15 years, or the number of Egyptian merchants who struck deals with the Zionist entity, and the number of Egyptians who attend the functions of the Zionist embassy in Cairo?

If the know-all Husni Mubarak provides you with the public and well-known facts, you will certainly discover that the Egyptian people, with their spontaneous nature and national will, are strongly against normalization with the Zionist entity. The borders were not opened, the walls did not come down, and there was no movement of goods or tourists. Those who exchange visits are the intelligence men and the officials and a small number of disreputable people.

Before that, why do you not ask your security advisers—who asked you to follow their instructions when you arrived in Cairo, who massed 1,500 U.S. security persons and thousands of Egyptian security men, and who advised you not to travel in an open car or walk in Cairo streets, and so forth—why not ask them, Mr. President: Why do we need all these measures when Egypt's relations with Israel are an example of the peace that should be emulated?

Certainly, you will find the answer in a report which Central Intelligence Agency Chief Woolsey gave to you before you left Washington. The report says there is terrorism in Egypt and it is necessary to be careful. Let us accept this, Mr. President, and use it as the basis for a dialogue between us. Let us first pause a little at that point.

What is happening in Egypt is not terrorism, but a general popular uprising that started several years ago in the countryside and arrived last year in Cairo. Terrorism is the act of an individual or a limited elitist group. However, the popular armed struggle, which has continued for years within the framework of declared objectives, is called "popular uprising," or "armed struggle," or "national revolution."

In Egypt, and despite the difference in view amongst those who raise arms against the Egyptian regime, which forced them to do so by suppressing and depriving them of the right to free expression, there is a national consensus on two points: First, that normalization with the Zionist entity is national treason and religious blasphemy.

Second, the tragedy of Egypt is caused by the Zionist entity and America, which are turning graveyards in Egypt into cities inhabited by thousands of families! Have you heard, Mr. President, of a country other than Egypt where graveyards are used as free-of-charge hotels where thousands of families reside permanently?

If the Egyptian people, after over 15 years of normalization, are still strongly rejecting normalization and consider it the cause of Egypt's agonies, then how did you blunder and deem Egypt as the example that should be followed? Do you mean to say that normalization with the Zionist entity means and must mean disastrous consequences for every country that follow Egypt's example of normalization? We in Iraq, in light of our current bitter experience with you, Mr. President, affirm that through normalization with the Zionist entity, you want Arab entities to be destroyed from within and through the systematic spoiling and destruction of Arab economies and societies.

Mr. President, since you have talked in a Machiavellian way about the Arab people's satisfaction with normalization, allow me to remind you of a fact noted by your current unofficial envoy and former Democratic President Jimmy Carter during the signing ceremony of the Camp David treaties by Anwar al-Sadat and Menachem Begin. He said that the signing of the two treaties was a success for the establishment of peace between governments. He added that although that was a basic and important step, the establishment of peace between peoples was more important. Without peace between peoples, the peace of governments is worthless.

That was what your democratic predecessor, Carter, said, and which was 100 percent true. This is because peace, in form and in content, is a process that should lead to stability and removal of all forms of violence, most important of which are compulsion, annexation, extortion, and the policy of force. History is rife with relevant examples. Peace is absolutely the contrary of pressure and extortion against either party to the peace process. When people converse freely and agreements are reached without compulsion and extortion and as a result of understanding between the two or more parties involved, then a durable, just peace can be reached and all problems will be uprooted. This is a lesson from both old and modern history.

On the contrary, when one of the two parties uses his own power or strong foreign support to impose facts and force them on other side, the only result will be what can be called the "peace by force," a fragile and temporary peace carrying elements of war and conflict. This is because one of the two sides will be convinced that it has signed an unfair deal that harms its national interests. Have you not heard of the Versailles agreement imposed on Germany by force? After it regained its power, Germany rejected the agreement. The outcome of the imposed Versailles agreement was the destructive World War II.

Therefore, history says that the peace by force is nothing but a time bomb awaiting an appropriate time to explode. Consequently, uglier wars may break out because of the accumulation of new factors of hatred and the emergence of new problems, such as the deliberate insult to the dignity and sovereignty of the state on which the agreements are imposed. The Egyptian-Zionist agreement is an example of unfair agreements imposed by force and extortion. Therefore, there has been no normalization despite all the government efforts and the U.S. support.

The Egyptian people, together with the entire Arab people, are absolutely convinced that normalization with the Zionist entity is nothing but an imposition of a humiliating state of capitulations in an attempt to force the Arabs to abandon their historical, national, and legal rights to Palestine on the pretext of being realists and accepting realities. Therefore, the "peace of governments" signed by the governments of Egypt and the

Zionist entity over 15 years ago has not turned into a peace of peoples. There is no chance for that all, for the Zionist entity has colonized Palestine by force and relied on the policy of looting Arab wealth and territory and destroying the pillars of civilization in Arab countries.

Therefore, Mr. President, there is no peace now with the Zionist entity. Rather, there is a capitulation to the Zionist logic of force, which is supported by the U.S. war machine. This is absolutely clear even in your statements in Jordan in which you explicitly admitted that there is a strong pan-Arab and Islamic opposition to the policy of reconciliation with the Zionist entity. You said: "I tell them (pan-Arabists and Islamists) that you will not and must not succeed because you are the past and not the future."

The message will be continued tomorrow.

'Political Aims' of Clinton's Trip Viewed

JN0211085694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Oct 94 p 1

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "An Exposed Plot"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit of the waffling U.S. President to the region under the excuse of attending the signing ceremony of the Jordanian-Zionist peace treaty entails a number of political aims. The foremost of these are giving assurances to the collaborators and friends of the United States about continued U.S. support for the rulers of the states he will visit, in order to prompt Syria to expedite the settlement with "Israel," to try to steal the limelight from Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's visit to Iraq, containing the effects of the Iraqi-Russian Baghdad statement, and to assure the agents—both big and small—that the United States is still powerful inside the UN Security Council despite the change in the attitude of the council's permanent member states in Iraq's favor.

Meanwhile, the U.S. President will ask his collaborators to remain within the American sphere, guarantee U.S. interests, and ignore the new facts that show the United States is no longer the sole power that can influence world events in its favor as the recent Security Council debate on Iraq has shown.

In addition, Clinton will try to show that Washington and its allies in the region are united, thereby ignoring the difficulties facing the U.S. presence in Kuwait, especially its high cost. He will try to give them a false impression about the success of his mission, emphasizing the need to increase the plotting against Iraq, and discussing—and this is a likely possibility—an air strike against Iran following the Palestinian "Tel Aviv" operation and the killing and wounding of scores of Zionists in that heroic operation.

Writer Advises Clinton To Visit 'Ethics Sanatorium'

JN0311205594 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 29 Oct 94 p 2

[Article by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi: "The Iraq Blockade and the U.S. Schizophrenia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The core of our problem with the United States lies in the political duality and the biased interpretation of international resolutions.

During his current tour, Clinton the irresolute called for "moderation and peace" with his strategic Zionist ally. Meanwhile, he is exercising an ultra-extremist and terrorist policy and aggressive pressure against leader Saddam Husayn's Iraq, which is demanding its legitimate right to have the blockade lifted.

The master of the Black House has also advised "openness and flexibility" with the racist Zionists. Meanwhile, as he ignores the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, he turns a blind eye to Tel Aviv's noncommitment to the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy. At the same time, he rejects an objective, quiet dialogue with Baghdad, threatening to use brutal force, although Iraq has met its legal obligations in accordance with the unfair UN Security Council resolutions.

We advise the U.S. President to visit the nearest "ethics sanatorium" to treat this ethical schizophrenia and to provide him with a minimum level of harmony between his eye-catching slogans and the barbaric behavior of his administration, which has begun to roll down from the peak of the world order to the abyss. Peace and security are indivisible in this sensitive area of the world. They will never be secured as long as our people are being starved to death, and as long as an end is not brought to the Zionist occupation and the U.S. imperialist arrogant policy against the Arab nation's aspirations for unity, democracy, progress, and justice.

U.S. Said Forcing 'Americanization' on Region

JN2910120794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 29 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi paper says the flame which Iraq ignited has illuminated some dark corners and helped educate tens of millions of young Arabs.

In an editorial today, AL-QADISIYAH says: Without the Mother of Battles, the young Arab people would not have learned in less than a year what Arab wealth means, what role the oil-producing regimes play to sabotage the Arab nation, and what are the rights of the nation and who infringes on these rights.

The paper explains that the Americanization, sought by Zionism and the U.S. Administration, aims at imposing hegemony on the Arab states' political, economic, and cultural decisions so that the Arab regimes will remain unconcerned, tamed, subservient, and weak and yield to a new type of intellectual and cultural colonialism that erases its identity.

The paper concludes its article by saying: It will not be long before slanders and distortions start gradually, and indirectly, against the most sacred thing for the Muslims from which they take guidance—that is, the Holy Koran, which preserved the nation's cultural unity and spirit of jihad.

Minister: West Wants 'Puppet Regime' in Baghdad

MS0111143794 London THE GUARDIAN in English 1 Nov 94 p 15

[Report by Jonathan Rugman: "Iraq Takes Long View of Confrontation With West"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad—When Salah al-Mukhtar, editor of Iraq's oldest government newspaper, tries to account for his country's problems, he quotes what he says is an Indian saying: "If two fishes are quarreling in the ocean, blame it on the British."

"British colonialism created the problem of Kuwait—Britain has protected the emir since the 1930s," the editor of al-Jumhuriyah says as he explains Iraq's invasion of its neighbour four years ago.

Whether they actually believe it or not, Mr al-Mukhtar and the ruling Arab Socialist Ba'th Party of Iraq are proponents of an anti-colonialist conspiracy theory which forms the core of the current regime's propaganda.

The theory has it that the invasion of Kuwait was in self-defence; and that sanctions against Iraq, the air exclusion zones in the Kurdish north and Shiite south and the current build-up of allied troops in the Gulf are part of a plot to take control of Iraq's oilfields and provoke civil war.

"The policy is to destroy us," Mr al-Mukhtar says. "Every Ba'thist or anti-Ba'thist person believes it. All Iraqis will stand behind the president because it is a case of avoiding the option of Yugoslavia."

Iraq's suspicions of US and British motives are grounded in colonial history. When independence was conferred on Iraq in 1930, the country was obliged to have "full and frank consultations with Great Britain in all matters of foreign policy".

The Ba'th party has been ideologically sustained by the threat of neo-colonialism and foreign interference ever since it took over power in 1968. Mr al-Mukhtar was imprisoned in the late 1950s for membership of the Ba'ath and still speaks a language of Arab nationalism which has changed little since the days of 'Abd-al- Nasir.

President Saddam Husayn's supporters do have cause to believe a plot is under way. The British Foreign Office Minister, Douglas Hogg, is the latest Western politician to have called openly for the ousting of President Saddam, joining a list which began in earnest when President Bush encouraged Iraqis to rise up in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

It has also been widely argued that Anglo-American interest in Iraq is indeed based on oil, and that it is in the interests of the Gulf states to keep Iraq's oil off the market so that the price remains high.

Yet so much of Iraqi politics appears to exist in a time warp. While others in the Arab world move towards peace with Israel and the United States, Baghdad maintains the old rhetoric of the "Arab nation" fighting imperialism and destroying the Jewish state.

"Our enemies want a puppet regime in Baghdad," says Yusuf Hammadi, Iraq's information minister. "They have been driven out of the country and now they want to come back."

Mr Hammadi is, however, confident that any plan to divide Iraq will fail. He points to fighting this summer between rival factions in the Kurdish "safe haven" of northern Iraq as proof that the Kurds are incapable of independence, and will eventually return to Baghdad's fold.

Mr Hammadi's party colleague, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi is similarly confident that a Shiite rebellion will not recur. "Those who acted did not have the support of the people," Mr al-Hashimi says of the southern uprising at the end of the Gulf war. "Fourteen out of our 18 governorates went beyond our control and yet we came back—no Iraqi wants Baghdad to become like Sarajevo."

While the media uses the spectres of invasion and disintegration to boost support for President Saddam, officials are quietly confident that the allies have no intention of intervening to remove their leader.

"They can't find anyone else to back because there is no one else to back," says a chuckling Mr al-Hashimi. "The Ba'th is stable, it can rebuild relations with the West," claims another party supporter.

The Iraqi National Congress [INC], an umbrella opposition group based in Kurdish-administered northern Iraq, is apparently not regarded as a serious threat by Baghdad. The INC's president, Ahmad Jalabi, is viewed with the same suspicion as he is by Western governments, who doubt that anyone could prevent civil war if President Saddam is toppled.

Mr Jalabi's grandfather was a member of the first Iraqi National Assembly and his father and brother were ministers. Yet Ba'thists claim that these credentials dating from colonial times do not amount to modern political credibility.

A senior European diplomat in the Iraqi capital argues that when sanctions are lifted, it would be better for foreign investors if President Saddam were still in control as a guarantee of stability.

"There will always be enough dates in Iraq to keep the establishment fed for a long time," the diplomat says, refuting the Iraqi National Congress's claim that the impoverishment of the middle class is bringing about a movement for change.

Also there are doubts whether the country is ready for the INC's democracy. As Mr Hammadi puts it: "In this region, real democracy and oil do not mix."

President Saddam's Sunni power base may, as the INC believes, be crumbling. But should there be more allied bombing raids against Baghdad and the Iraqi leader survive, his position as leader of a suffering, besieged people could quite possibly be enhanced. In the words of a European diplomat: "In the Middle East, you are strong until you are dead."

Arab 'Openness' To Zionist 'Monopolies' Assailed

JN0411111294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0906 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that the interests of the Arab economy are not promoted by openness toward Zionist and racist monopolies, but rather by building a pan-Arab economic bloc, in which the interests of all Arab states without exception are accorded equal treatment.

In an article entitled "The Embargo Is Not A Purely Iraqi Affair," published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the Arab states, saying: The rectification of your economic state of affairs cannot be achieved by harboring empty dreams produced by the U.S. Administration and the Zionist octopus. Rather, it must be accomplished by rehabilitating the unity of the Arab economy, to which Iraq is a key party.

The paper goes on to say: It has become clear that it is impossible to skirt the Iraqi economy in any balanced regional or pan-Arab development endeavor. Likewise, those who have lost their financial reserves and economic assets in order to gratify their evil instincts and promote the embargo clamped on Iraq must now contemplate the fate they have met. They are facing declining financial liquidity, loans obtained from the World Bank, not to mention the drastic changes introduced into their development endeavors to address their deficits and the state of affairs of their coffers, which have been emptied without achieving any positive results in return.

The paper says: Arab losses due to the embargo are increasing constantly. Arab trade now constitutes only 1 percent of world trade. In the past it amounted to 7 percent. Recession is now plaguing ports, means of transport, banks, and service facilities in the Arab world. As for the number of unemployed workers in the Arab homeland, it has increased by 5 million people, according to the figures provided by the Arab Labor Organization. These 5 million jobless Arabs used to do business with Iraq. There is also the fate of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Arab Common Market, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Maritime Corporation, and Arab oil industries in general to consider.

The paper notes that Arab and foreign experts have given further realistic figures regarding the losses to the economies of countries adjacent to Iraq, as well as other countries in Asia, Africa, and South America that have suffered due to the severance of their trade ties with Iraq.

Turkish documents provide indisputable confessions regarding these losses. As for the Arab economy, it suffers from endless problems and impediments to development.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that the interests of the Arab economy are not promoted by openness to racist and Zionist monopolies, which will only breach Arab markets, but rather by building a pan-Arab economic bloc, in which the interests of all Arab states without exception are accorded equal treatment.

Kuwait Urged To Give Up Arms, Resort to Talks

JN0211122394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Oct 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah: "Continuous Waste"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For London to sell missiles to Kuwait valued at $80 million on the sideline of the recently fabricated crisis in order to dispose of its useless merchandise is not something new. This deal has been preceded by several other similar deals at fantastic prices. Britain, and before that the United States, has become accustomed to exploiting the Kuwaiti rulers' fears to the maximum by this policy of fraud and extortion.

In fact, increasing tension and causing panic through fabricated crises in the region has become a favorite game for Washington and its British satellite in order to exhaust the resources of the Kuwaiti rulers, especially since they were very punctual in paying all the bills of the aggression against Iraq and they continue to finance the deployment of mercenary forces—from their boots to their bullets—in addition to other expenses.

But pursuing the process of concluding armament deals and contracts so viciously and at such exorbitant prices, to the extent of imposing a tax on citizens by deducting 10 percent from the wages of civil servants and private sector employees, at a time when the Kuwaiti rulers have concluded what is termed joint defense pacts with the United States and its allies to face what they claim Iraqi threats, raises many questions. The foremost of these is why are these people buying all these weapons in such fantastic quantities and great varieties when they can hire fully-equipped mercenaries to fight on their behalf?

Indeed, why this great waste of wealth and revenues as long as they are paying "protection" money? If we were to calculate the number of deals the Kuwaiti rulers have concluded in billions of dollars, we would discover that they have indeed exhausted their reserve assets. The imposition of a tax by the deduction of wages is only one indication that this fraudulent policy will continue. Furthermore, if we were to assess the useless merchandise that Washington and London have disposed of during the past four years we will find the issue is greater than Kuwait's absorption and storage capability, let alone its ability to handle such weapons. This shows the question is no longer one of a desire to possess the weapons, but one of enforcement, dictatorship, and exploitation of the crisis in this milking process. No doubt, the continuation of this stupid policy will be harmful to Kuwait more than anyone else, and this is something which no one has failed to notice.

Security, safety, stability, and peaceful coexistence in the region will not be achieved by foreign forces, warships, and aircraft carriers, or by an armament race, but by sowing the seeds of mutual confidence and resolving outstanding problems through dialogue and persuasion, especially since Iraq is not an emirate or a tiny state in the region, but a state known for its weight, status, history, and leadership; a state that can play a major role in creating a balance in the region. Therefore, the policy of giving the cold shoulder and depending on foreign strength will not resolve the problem, but rather complicate it further. Will the Kuwaiti rulers realize what course they are following and for how long?

Kurdistan Radio on Normalization Efforts in Irbil

NC0311170694 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], this morning chaired a meeting of the committee in charge of normalizing the situation in the Irbil governorate. Present at the meeting were the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, and a number of the committee members.

The conferees discussed the current situation in the governorate and the steps necessary to normalize the conditions there. The conferees decided the following during the meeting:

1. The committee will send a team made up of the official in charge of the third branch of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], the official in charge of the KDP's second branch, the Irbil Governorate, and military officials to areas where normalization will be applied.

2. The conferees decided to implement all the pending resolutions that were adopted during the committee's previous meetings.

3. The PUK and KDP military officials will implement these resolutions.

Kurdish Security Arrests Baghdad 'Mercenary'

NC0311180494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday morning a detachment of the Irbil Governorate security service arrested Salah Darwish, a mercenary of the 'Aflaqite regime in Baghdad. The security men seized 10 kg of the highly explosive TNT with the criminal. Darwish was instructed by the Baghdad regime to detonate the TNT explosives in the Irbil Governorate. Bakr Mustafa, head of the security service in Irbil, has told the newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY that criminal Salah Darwish, who hails from Karkuk, was instructed by the Baghdad regime's intelligence service to detonate the TNT in the Irbil Governorate. The criminal was well trained on detonating the explosives in cooperation with other mercenaries residing in certain areas in the Kurdistan region. Mustafa said that criminal Darwish has confessed to his crimes and revealed the names of his collaborators, who were arrested.

Paper Reports on Oil Transport Company Operations

JN0211104394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Oct 94 p 4

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahid Harjan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi Company for the Transport of Oil Products has transported more than 492,000 tonnes of different oil products inside and outside the country during the last six months of this year.

Making this announcement, company Manager Muthanna 'Abd-al-Hamid has said that the quantities of oil and by-products transported were distributed as follows: 374,000 tonnes were transported inside the country for the State Enterprise for the Distribution of Oil Products, the State Enterprise for Iraqi Cement, and al-Ramadi Glass Factory; and 118,000 tonnes of different oil products were transported outside the country.

The manager added that through its fleet of 40 special tankers, in addition to 1,500 other tankers belonging to the private sector, the company made a profit of $412,000 as of 30 September 1994, while its revenues in local currency were approximately 10 million Iraqi dinars as of 31 August 1994.

The manager said the company has ambitious plans to double its revenues by concluding direct contracts with companies and expanding its fleet to 60 tankers.

Peres Not To Make Statement on al-'Abid Assassination

TA0311155794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today said he has no intention to react to reports claiming that Israel is responsible for the assassination of the Islamic Jihad activist in the Gaza Strip. Mr. Peres told our political correspondent that in his opinion Israel should not make any statements on this issue, because such statements are not helpful.

al-'Abid Background, Plans for New Attack Detailed

TA0411113794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 94 pp A1, A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Jihad organization in the Gaza Strip planned to carry out a car bomb attack in Israel. The planning for this attack was at an advanced stage. Hani 'Abid, the senior Islamic Jihad activist who was killed when his booby-trapped car exploded in Khan Yunus, served as the head of this organization's military arm and was also one of the planners of this attack.

The squad that planned to carry out the attack belongs to Islamic Jihad's military arm. The members of this squad had stolen a car from Israel and moved it to the Gaza Strip in order to carry out the attack. 'Abid, a chemist by profession, was supposed to install the explosive device in the car and organize the attack.

Hani 'Abid, head of Islamic Jihad's military arm, masterminded a series of attacks in which his men were involved, among them the murder of two reserve soldiers, Moshe Buqra and Erez Ben-Barukh, at the Erez checkpoint. Apparently he also participated in the murders. [passage omitted]

Yesterday Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] repeated their threats to carry out an attack in retaliation for 'Abid's assassination, which they attribute to Israel.

The security forces and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] are preparing to thwart possible attacks. Warnings have been received about a possible attack in Israel or at the Cave of the Patriarchs entrance when it opens for prayer next Monday [7 November]. A military source yesterday said that on the cave's opening day Hebron will be put under closure and will be surrounded by a very large contingent of Border Police and IDF.

The security forces and the IDF have also increased their alertness in the various sectors of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, especially the Qatif Bloc roads. Thorough checks are being conducted at the roadblocks for fear of suicide attacks. [passage omitted]

Rabin Approves Issuance of 5,000 More Work Permits

TA0311180694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, has approved the issuance of another 5,000 permits to laborers from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip for work in Israel. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the permits will be issued to 3,000 industry workers and 2,000 construction workers, married men over the age of 30 who worked in Israel prior to the closure.

The Civil Administration has not yet decided how to distribute the new permits. The number of workers permitted to enter Israel will henceforth stand at 10,000 construction workers and 3,000 industry workers. The permits will be distributed by the middle of next week.

Majority Considers Decision To Ease Closure 'Wrong'

TA0411134394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Nov 94 p 5

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: Do you think the government's decision to ease the closure on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip was right or wrong?

Answer: right, 35 percent; wrong, 60 percent; no reply, 5 percent.

The poll was conducted on 3 November on 533 respondents who constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult population. The maximum margin of terror is 4 percent.

Embassies Instructed To Protest Lifting Iraqi Embargo

TA0411062494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Foreign Ministry has instructed Israeli embassies abroad to protest the lifting of the embargo on Iraq and cancellation of UN international observers. Qol Yisra'el's political correspondent says this would be the first time Israeli embassies have been instructed to demonstrate Israel's views so clearly. He adds that the directive came after sources in Jerusalem sensed that several countries would consider lifting—for a trial period—the sanctions that were imposed on Iraq after the Gulf War.

Turkey's Ciller Arrives for 3-Day Official Visit

Schedule Detailed

TA0311085294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has arrived in Israel on an official 3-day visit. It is the first time a Turkish prime minister has visited Israel. Mrs. Ciller will meet with President Weizman, Prime Minister Rabin, and Foreign Minister Peres.

Ciller, Peres Discuss Cooperation

TA0311171094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Nov 94

[Italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel and Turkey are both interested in fighting terrorism and Islamic extremism. This was said by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, who is visiting Israel for the first time. Ciller visited Libya two days ago and is conveying a message from al-Qadhdhafi, a message Foreign Minister Peres defined as vague. Our political correspondent 'Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] This evening Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller will sign a police cooperation agreement aimed at establishing a joint struggle against terrorism, drug trafficking, and crime. Earlier today Ciller arrived on a first-ever visit by a Turkish prime minister to Israel. Ciller visited Libya two days ago, but she says she did not discuss the possibility of negotiations between Jerusalem and Tripoli:

[Ciller] *Well, we did not discuss that issue, no.*

[Segal translates the above and continues] At the same time Foreign Minister Peres said she did convey a message from al-Qadhdhafi, albeit a message he defined as vague.

The Turkish prime minister is accompanied by 200 businessmen and journalists, her clear intention being to place Turkey in an advantageous position in anticipation of the expected economic development in the Middle East. Ciller emphasized the excellent relations between Turkey and Israel. Apparently, however, she is not familiar with the domestic political situation in Israel:

[Ciller, in progress] *...have Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres come together to Turkey so that we can enjoy the Nobel Prize winners.*

[Segal, translating the above and continuing] I hope to see the prime minister and foreign minister vacation in Turkey together in celebration of their Nobel Peace Prize. The idea of Rabin and Peres vacationing together in Antalya produced some smiles on the faces of those invited to lunch with Ciller.

Another issue that Ciller raised was the antiterror war. She warns that fundamentalism is a dangerous phenomenon that could penetrate Europe. Foreign Minister Peres stressed the strategic aspect—Turkey as a modern, secular Muslim state as opposed to the fanatic and fundamentalist Iran:

[Peres] This is a real demonstration of strategic, political, and economic cooperation which will serve the two countries. I attribute great importance to this cooperation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ciller on Antiterror Cooperation

TA0311175494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller says the fight against terror has to incorporate the cooperation of Syria. She was speaking to the World Zionist Organization's Council on Foreign Relations. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed that a message had been received from Libya's ruler, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. In it, al-Qadhdhafi reportedly offered to be more flexible on the issue of terrorism, but Peres said the message was incoherent. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Ciller said the Kurdish separatist organization, the PKK, kills without distinction Turks and Kurds who do not agree with its policy. They go into coffee houses and shoot people indiscriminately, she said, and she hinted that Syria bears part of the responsibility for giving the PKK shelter on its territory.

[Ciller, in progress] ...that the fight against terror has to incorporate the cooperation of Syria. We feel right after that Lebanon would probably follow. This is a dramatic [word indistinct] that is in one.

[Katzenell] Turkey pressed Israel to make an express commitment against the PKK, but Israel refused, and in the agreement the two countries are signing Israel makes only a general commitment, as I heard from Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] [words indistinct] the good example is if you have an information concerning cooperation between different terrorist groups and it will affect our country or other countries, there is an obligation to exchange whatever we have about information, and mostly, I would say, the cooperation will be in methods in training and not in specific issues. [passage omitted]

[Katzenell] Prime Minister Ciller was asked about the report that she had brought a message from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, offering to be more flexible on issues of terrorism. The message reportedly concerned the Lockerbie affair. Ciller evaded the question, and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said al-Qadhdhafi's message was incoherent. [end recording]

Rabin, Ciller Sign Agreements

TA0411061694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Turkey last night signed two agreements, one on joining efforts to fight terrorism and crime in general, especially drug trafficking; the other on ties in the communication field. The treaties were finalized at the end of the first day of the visit by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, the most senior Turkish official ever to come to Israel. Ciller and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed the agreements at a banquet at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. Addressing several hundred invited guests and members of the Turkish and Israeli media, Prime Minister Rabin said peace in the region would be achieved by fighting both terrorism and poverty. He also thanked the Turkish prime minister for coming to Israel.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] You have come, Madame Prime Minister, to Israel in a period in which hopes for peace, realizing that there are dangers on the road to peace. You have come over as the first prime minister of Turkey to visit officially the State of Israel. You had the courage to change many things in your country. You had the courage to change many things in the relationships with the countries of the region and the world. We owe you a lot for your determination, for your courage, for your readiness for cooperation for peace, stability, and tranquility in the region. [end recording]

In a speech that referred to the centuries-long ties between Turks and Jews, Prime Minister Ciller also looked toward a brighter future for the region:

[Begin Ciller recording] Hope has dawned in the Middle East. Let us not miss it. As the late Nehru once said: A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new. You are seizing that moment, others are seizing that moment. Blessed are the peacemakers. You are at the helm of governing at the most crucial time. We in Turkey wish you well in the task of peacemaking. We are ready to contribute to it in any way we can. [end recording]

Rabinovich on Clinton's Claim on Syrian Concessions

TA0411062794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's ambassador to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, has backed U.S. President Bill Clinton's claim that he gained some concession in his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, but described the shifts as marginal. Speaking to reporters in Washington, Rabinovich also said that Israel has not asked to hold a summit between al-Asad and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin:

[Begin Rabinovich recording] This is not something that we asked for. Of course, when asked about it, the prime minister, the foreign minister, all Israeli spokesmen on questions of foreign policy and national security, would tell you that we think that such meetings are important and should take place. But it's not something that we seek. It's not a favor that Syria needs to do unto us. [end recording]

Record Number of Residents Said To Join Golan Town

TA0311112994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 94 p 13

[Report by Goga Kogan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The largest ever rise in the number of people settling in Qatzrin on the Golan Heights was registered over the past three months. According to Interior Ministry data, some 345 people—of whom 180 are new immigrants—have moved to Qatzrin while 42 have left, meaning that the poing 21 percent of the population.

According to the local council personnel, the rise in the number of residents is noted across all age groups, but the main rise is in those aged between 22 and 40.

In view of its recent success, the Housing Ministry has decided to sell the last 120 apartments left in Qatzrin, to those eligible for government subsidized mortgages. The ministry expects to sell those apartments in a few weeks, which would leave no vacant apartment in the town. Last year, the Housing Ministry sold some 600 apartments there.

Rabin on 'Fanatical Islam,' Economic Issues

TA0411120894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that, today, Syria and Lebanon are not the enemies of peace. According to him, fanatical Islam is the enemy of peace and war should be waged against it. The prime minister was speaking at a special meeting of the Labor Bureau. Our party affairs correspondent Sefi Hendler has the details:

[Begin recording] [Hendler] Here, at the Labor Party Building, the debate on the party's working plan for the period up to the elections continues at this time. Party Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin who opened the debate did not say much on internal party affairs, but spoke at length about the threat of Islamic terrorism. Today, Rabin said, the enemies of peace are not Syria and Lebanon. Rather it is the extremist, terrorist, fundamentalist, fanatical Islam spread across the Arab world which carries out terror attacks against us.

[Rabin] If we do not deal with the two main enemies of peace—radical, terroristic Islam on the one hand, and poverty and illiteracy on the other—there will be no stability in the Middle East. If our political contracts with Egypt, the Palestinians, and Jordan fail to change the feeling of the inhabitants of those countries and entities linked with the peace process and about which we have reached agreements, and if there is no change in the socioeconomic status of the population—the achievements made so far, will be questioned.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 4 November, carries a similar report by party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal adding that, upon leaving the debate, Rabin was asked: "How does the need to defeat Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad coincide with the need to allow the Palestinian Authority [PA] exercise its power over the residents?" Saying there is no contradiction between the two, the prime minister answers in a recorded passage: "First of all, we must demand that in the areas under its responsibility, the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the PA make an effort—through its police force and security services—to have the law and public order observed and to prevent those regions from becoming launching pads for attacks inside Israel. Anyone who finds it difficult to impose his authority in the territories, will have a problem because there is doubt that he would then be able to represent them in dealing with us."]

[Hendler] After speaking about some economic issues, Rabin concluded by saying: The bottom line is that as we arrive at the midterm mark, Labor can look back with pride at the government's activity.

The debate on the Labor work plan, presented by Secretary General Nisim Zvili, continues. The plan sets a schedule for the next two years: A party conference in January 1996; primaries for the party's candidate for prime minister in March 1996; and in May, primaries for the party Knesset list.

Minister Mikha Harish, former party secretary general, came out against the plan and, speaking in very harsh terms, said that Labor is today clinical dead and called for a more thorough discussion. The plan is scheduled to be ratified in another debate that will be held in two weeks. [end recording]

Border Police Antiterrorist Unit Revealed

TA0411114694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Nov 94 p A16

[Report by Bill Hutman and Batsheva Tsur]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Its members disguised as Arabs and operating in the heart of Palestinian villages and towns, a Border Police undercover unit has been a major force in the war against terror.

Yesterday, after four years of operation in which it was involved in the killing or capture of some 120 terrorists, the unit was officially "uncovered" for the first time.

"Even while we are talking peace, such units as this must continue to operate, to ensure the nation remains strong," said President 'Ezer Weizman, after reviewing the unit's work.

At a base in the desert, policemen serving with the unit, founded in 1990, demonstrated their special methods and weapons. Chief Superintendent N., the unit's commander, revealed that special technique's were recently developed to capture terrorists on their way to kidnap hitchhikers.

"Even while Israel reaches out with one hand for peace, it must always have the second hand on the trigger," said N., who has over a decade's experience in anti-terror operations.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad terrorists are the unit's primary targets. N. said that, since its founding, the unit had killed 50 terrorists and captured 70 "serious terrorists," as well as dozens of other activists.

The president watched undercover policemen practice entering a crowded Palestinian "market" where a nationalistic march, including armed terrorists, was under way. The policemen pulled up in a vehicle with territories license plates and surprised the "terrorists," opening fire and killing them.

N. said that members of the unit in many cases do not need disguises to blend into the communities where they operate.

"Our guys enter a market in Qalqilyah like they enter Mahane Yehuda in Jerusalem," N. said. "They feel comfortable and they know how to react in any situation."

He said part of their undercover training involves simply walking around an Arab village or town acquainting themselves with the surroundings and habits of the people.

"If there is someone who feels uncomfortable in such a situation, he does not stay in the unit," N. said, noting that while service in the unit is tough, most members complete their time and often sign on for more. [passage omitted]

'Secret' Plan Noted for Development in Jerusalem

TA0411115494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Nov 94 p B2

[Article by Bill Hutman: "Capital's Secret Plan: New Roads, New Homes"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It's a closely guarded secret and it has far-reaching political implications. It's only a plan for a metropolitan area, but then, Jerusalem is not like other cities.

An interministerial committee that has been meeting for two years to determine plans for development in metropolitan Jerusalem has nearly completed its work, committee sources revealed this week.

However, the principles set down by the committee reflect policies that are already being pursued by the ministries involved, and affect plans to build everything from new homes to new roads in the Jerusalem area.

The sources said a sharp Palestinian reaction is expected to the plan because of the changes it calls for in areas over the Green Line which are slated to come under Palestinian control.

For that reason, the committee's proceedings and the final proposal it is now completing are being kept as secret as possible.

The sources, meanwhile, emphasized that if the plan is presented correctly by the government as beneficial to both Israelis and Palestinians, the Palestinian leadership could be convinced of its importance.

"This is going to be a major test of whether this peace is for real, and whether there is really going to be cooperation," one of the sources said.

The details are being finalized by officials from the Interior, Housing and Transport ministries and Israel Lands Administration. The final product is to be presented to Prime Minister Rabin soon. Such a plan would normally just be presented to the interior minister, but because of the sensitivity of the area, it will in all likelihood have to be approved by the entire government.

The sections involving areas in Samaria have already been shown to at least one government minister, in the hope that the plan can be presented to Palestinian leaders for consideration.

The proposals for the Jerusalem metropolitan area—bordered to the north by Ramallah and the south by Bethlehem, and including Ma'ale Adumim to the east and Bet Shemesh to the west—center on the construction of two new highways linking the coast and Jerusalem.

One highway, No. 45, is slated to enter Jerusalem from the north and is the most controversial because it goes through areas that are expected to come under Palestinian authority in Samaria.

Highway No. 45 is to start from the Tel Aviv area, pass Ben-Gurion Airport, and then cut south just before Ramallah toward Jerusalem. It is meant to provide an excellent route for commercial traffic to and from Jerusalem, Ramallah and other Arab and Jewish communities in the area.

Planners, who have dubbed the proposal the "peace highway," say it will eventually continue to Amman.

Service and industrial areas are proposed along Highway No. 45 between the airport and Jerusalem.

The committee did not address the issue of housing construction along the route because it is over the Green Line.

The other highway, No. 39, is slated to run from Ashdod, pass just south of Bet Shemesh and Zur Hadassa, and enter the capital from the southwest. This highway would be within the Green Line all the way, and is meant to serve a greatly expanded Bet Shemesh, giving residents there easy access to Jerusalem. Major growth expansion is also slated for Zur Hadassa.

The planners recognized the massive housing crunch in Jerusalem and the need to find solutions, and fast. But they opted against allowing the city to simply expand outwards in the effort to build new homes. Instead, home-buyers in Jerusalem will be encouraged—as they already are—to move to Bet Shemesh or even Modi'in.

The metropolitan Jerusalem plan also calls for the continued expansion of Ma'ale Adumim, just east of the capital.

"We were working under the assumption that there is a consensus surrounding Ma'ale Adumim," although the community lies over the Green Line, the committee source said.

The committee resisted allowing for construction in the few remaining undeveloped valleys and wadis in Jerusalem. They will be preserved to protect the city's character.

The plan calls for several thousand units to be built in existing neighborhoods and several large undeveloped tracts, most notably Har Homa in southern Jerusalem. The committee also recommends building high rises in the city center.

A recent survey by the Engineers, Architects and Academics Bureau showed that nearly 50,000 units could be built in Jerusalem without damaging the city's natural beauty.

The committee, meanwhile, also set sharp limits on development within the Jerusalem corridor—what today is largely a green belt with only small communities between Sha'ar Hagay and the capital.

The planners want construction in the corridor to be limited to the boundaries of the existing communities. Green areas are to remain untouched.

This week, that principle was nearly violated. Several Jerusalem corridor moshavim and kibbutzim proposed massive housing development on agricultural and undeveloped land they lease from the Israel Lands Administration.

Bet Neqofa proposed the construction of some 4,000 units near Route 1 and Mevasseret Yerushalyim. 'Aminadav also wanted to build 4,000 units in the Arazim Valley at the western entrance to the capital. Giv'at Ye'arim planned to build 6,850 units and Kesalon over 2,500 units in the same valley.

If the proposals had been approved, the Jerusalem metropolitan area would have fast looked like the Tel Aviv megalopolis, where development continues without differentiation between communities, with barely a forest or grassy knoll in sight.

"It would have been a disaster," said Tzipi Ron, head of the Jerusalem branch of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

Those behind the projects, however, said they were trying to do what the government wanted: build homes to help ease the housing crunch. They charged "the greens" with being insensitive to the needs of young couples in Jerusalem.

In the end, however, the Committee for Expediting Construction (Valal) rejected the Bet Neqofa project, and the other communities withdrew their plans from the committee hearing for fear theirs wouldn't be approved either.

The Valal committee—sharply criticized in the past for providing the loophole whereby many poorly thought-out plans were approved—kept to the principles set down by the committee on metropolitan Jerusalem.

For the moment, this simply shows that those principles are already widely supported by state planners.

But soon the government itself will have to decide on the matter, and determine just how Israel wants Jerusalem and its environs to look in the 21st century.

REFA'EL To Eliminate Weapons, Missile Division

TA0311120494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Nov 94 p 5

[Report by Uri Sharon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Two days ago, the management of REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] notified the workers' committee and the Histadrut labor federation representative at the Haifa district that it is about to eliminate its Weapons and Missiles Division, in a similar fashion to the way it had broken up the Technical Assistance Division several months ago. The reason given: economic unfeasibility and a worldwide drop in arms sales.

The Weapons and Missiles Division employs some 800 workers. The Histadrut reported yesterday that the REFA'EL management intends to fire some 300 of them and relocate the remaining 500 to other divisions. [passage omitted]

The management has decided to turn the Weapons and Missiles Division into two separate product-oriented administrations that would work for the defense establishment and foreign clients. This is expected to stop the heavy loses the division had suffered over the recent years, save expenses, and reduce the number of workers by several hundred.

Levi, Der'i, Labor, Likud Discuss New Center Party

TA0311114494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Nov 94 p 1

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Over the past several months, Knesset Members [MK] David Levi and Arye Der'i, and Labor and Likud figures have been holding talks and contacts on the possibility of setting up a new party for the 1996 elections. The idea is to set up a politically central party, neither left- nor right-wing, which would be based on mainly socioeconomic messages and would rely on voters of North African origin.

The contacts in which this possibility is being discussed involve some activists of the "Levi camp" in the Likud Party, headed by Likud Central Committee Chairman Maxim Levi; David 'Amar, head of the Nesher Local Council; Dimona Mayor Gabi Lalush; and Nahariyya Mayor Jack Sabag. Labor members who are taking part in these talks are MK Shlomo Buhbut, and several former central committee members, including Shlomo Avitan and Mordekhay Sason.

No practical steps have been taken so far on this new body, and the talks have not gone beyond initial contacts. Levi and Der'i have not yet made any binding decisions on the issue.

Last week, MK Levi refused to confirm that the talks indeed deal with setting up a new party, but he said that in his tours of Israel he detects a popular yearning for a new political body. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister on Peace Treaty, Arab Relations

JN0311123094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Nov 94 p 27

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by Dr. Nabil al-Sharif and Ahmad Shakir in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-DUSTUR] Mr. Prime Minister: Following the frank speech His Majesty King Husayn delivered in which he commented on the House of Representatives' reply to his speech from the throne, his majesty touched on extremely important issues. However, his majesty's remarks seemed to indicate that the relationship between the executive and legislative branches is not normal. What do you have to say about this?

[Al-Majali] I do not believe that the relationship between the Executive and Legislative Branches is bad and it is not among our objectives to have a confrontation. On the contrary, we always seek harmony. This is because the deputies were elected to secure the people's interests. His majesty the king appointed this government for the welfare of the public. Therefore, we proceed on the same path. This is the truth. Regrettably, what has happened is that the opposition has misinterpreted the government's actions. We believe in democracy and in the freedom of expression. However, opposition has its rules. Among these rules is that you should not accuse others of infidelity, heresy, or prostitution, nor should you sanction the shedding of their blood. If I replied in the same manner, there would be a tragedy. However, the government abstains from such things. But we believe in respecting other opinions. Moreover, the opposition should guide us to what we cannot see, and should not destroy what we do. We do not seek to destroy what they do. Neither do we seek to deprive them of their rights. The opposition should contribute to the development process and to teach others how to build so that the construction will be better. Destruction is always easier than construction. When you want to construct a building, it will take you a long time and a lot of money, but when you destroy it you can bring in a cheap bomb that will destroy the building in an instant.

I hope that there will be no destruction between the two branches of power, and the objective will always be construction. We will always respect the other opinion. However, when this opinion becomes destructive, then this is annoying.

[AL-DUSTUR] Mr. Prime Minister, to continue on this topic allow me to tell you some of what the opposition members say. They say that the government began to tire of hearing the other opinion, that the government does not give permission to hold certain symposiums, and that some meetings were canceled although the approval was obtained in advance, and they give examples. Is it true that the government has begun to get sick of the other opinion?

[Al-Majali] We are vigilant, and we are in charge of security. Security is something sacred to us. There are other topics on which they can say whatever they want, and we will not have a fight with them.

With regard to meetings, they are also free, and they have whole newspapers. Have you seen in the opposition newspapers any praise of any government? They are actually full of abuse. Even the official media sometimes cites the views of the opposition. However, we cannot prompt the official media to use such offensive and painful words because we take the people's feelings into account. If we had used such words, it would have created many reactions.

We support the right of the opposition to express its views. Hence, they publish what they please in their press. Even in the daily press, articles opposing the government are written, and we respect this. Have we interfered in your papers, put pressures on you, or told you to write this or not to write that? We do not interfere, and we will not interfere, so why are we accused of interfering?

The opposition papers do not talk about the government's achievements, nor do they publish the government statements correctly. At the same time, they cast doubt on these statements. Moreover, when the opposition demands to hold a seminar in a public place, the law does not permit this. The state-owned places cannot be given as venues for political competitions. We cannot respond to the demands of all political parties; otherwise, a conflict would develop.

We have not prevented any institution or any political party, whether from the opposition or not, from leasing any private place and expressing its views. As I said, such expression should be made through speeches, remarks, and articles in the press. Sometimes, they demand to stage a march. A march, however, is different from words. It involves the masses, so outsiders can join these marches. This, we fear, will create a dispute. Naturally, all the political parties do not agree on a clear line. For example, if someone from a different party joins a march and becomes offended, a spark will then be sufficient to ignite a fire. You can set fire to bushes with one spark. Is this what is wanted?

We permitted them to stage a sit-in near the Prime Ministry, and told them: You are welcome. However, we cannot permit political meetings in the mosques. This is impermissible, and if we permit such meetings you should criticize us. Speaking of this issue, leftist parties asked us to permit them to deliver speeches inside the mosques if we permit these people to do so. Is it permissible for us to turn the mosques into an arena for political conflicts, especially since the preacher has his own immunity?

If someone abuses a political party or figure from a pulpit, regardless of who this figure is, there must be someone to oppose this, someone who has the right to defend his own opinion. How can you prevent the latter's right to opposition. He should speak. Sedition is thus fomented. Therefore, we should avoid discussing politics. This is because politics, as is known, can change, and so can people. Otherwise, who has thus far objected to a Friday sermon discussing principles, ethics, and social issues. If you want to discuss politics from the pulpits, 22 political parties should be permitted to do so, and this is unacceptable.

[AL-DUSTUR] Your Excellency, you spoke about an improvement in Jordanian-Western relations. Is there any improvement in Arab relations?

[Al-Majali] Yes, there is improvement. We invited the Kuwaiti brothers. They thanked us for the invitation and would have come had they not been busy with specific matters.

The Qatari foreign minister invited me to visit Qatar. There will be another visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. As you know, I met with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan in Geneva. It was a warm and cordial meeting. We also want relations with the Saudi brothers to be good relations. We want good relations with all, but we cannot impose our opinion on people. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] Your Excellency, also concerning the peace process, there are many in Jordan who are apprehensive because there is not an adequate infrastructure in Jordan when compared to Israel and some fee that economic developments will take place at Jordan's expense as well. What do you tell these?

[Al-Majali] Sir, there will be no peace so long as the average annual income in Jordan is $1,200-1,300 a year while in Israel it is $15,000. From this premise, the bases of peace will be to upgrade the standard of living of the individual. How can this take place? This can be achieved through investments. Investments will eradicate unemployment and poverty. The only way to eradicate unemployment and poverty is through investments, whether local and, Arab investments, or investments by friendly countries. This can take place only if there is peace and stability. Therefore, peace is one of the main conditions for investments. [passage omitted]

[AL-DUSTUR] Is there anything new on the Syrian track?

[Al-Majali] You know there is, by God. You have read about the latest developments in the Washington press and in the press of other countries. I can say that the Syrian issue resembles a scientific equation. It consists of clear facts. There are defined borders and lands that existed during the French and British mandate. There are known international borders. The Israeli settlements are also specified and everything is clear. You can have this or that. The equation is clear.

As for us, there is the issue of water. What water rights do we have? The sea used to be our border. Should the borders be the middle of the two highest points, the course of a river, or something else? This is a question because our borders have never been demarcated and specified. That's why it was difficult. That's why when we saw there was some response, we grasped the opportunity and obtained our rights. We cannot say when the wind should blow and when it should stop.

Bomb Explodes Near Store; No Casualties Reported

JN0411123594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source in the Interior Ministry has stated that at 0015 today, Friday, 4 November 1994 [2215 GMT 3 November] an explosion was heard in the area around First Circle in Jabal Amman. Investigations have shown that the explosion resulted from a timed explosive device placed in front of a grocery store. As a result of the explosion, the store's facade sustained minor damages. No casualties were reported. The competent agencies have begun investigating the incident.

Yeltsin Congratulates King, Pledges Support

JN0311080994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Nov 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn on Wednesday [2 November] received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin marking the third anniversary of the launching of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Mr. Yeltsin said in his message that the conference gave "real impetus to peace" and served as "a turning point for the Israelis and Arabs alike, prompting them towards embarking on peaceful coexistence," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Yeltsin paid tribute to Arab and Israeli leaders for their courageous steps towards peace and said that the leaders on both sides had expressed determination in directing their potential towards economic development, Petra said.

The Russian leader also said his country would continue to extend help to all the concerned parties so that they arrive at their final objectives. [passage omitted]

Opposition: Government Putting Peace 'Above Democracy'

JN0311120294 Amman THE STAR in English 3-9 Nov 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Ben Wedeman, "Special to THE STAR"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A majority of Jordanians appear to support the peace agreement signed last week in Wadi al-'Arabah. Yet the opposition to the agreement commands the support of a significant minority, which is concerned that the new era of peace will only yield bitter fruits for Jordan.

Over the past week Amman has been the scene of demonstrations for and against the peace treaty. The former have received the lion's share of media coverage, something which has raised the ire of the opposition.

According to Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, "The opposition is not being given a fair chance to express its views." As a result, "people are very surprised at the fast pace of normalization that the government is adopting."

Supporters of the peace process downplay such claims, and even suggest the opposition is motivated by narrow political considerations. The opponents of the peace agreement "don't want peace or security or stability in the Middle East," Parliamentary Deputy Fawwaz al-Zu'bi told THE STAR. "I believe every opponent of the agreement knows the truth, but finds it difficult to speak the truth." He described the opposition as "very, very, very small."

The peace agreement, he said, "has brought our people to the shores of safety."

Said centrist Deputy Hammad Abu-Jamus, the opposition "have their own papers. And there isn't a single word taken from what they say, so they have complete freedom to express their opinions."

After a week of frustration, the local opposition to the treaty is warning that dark days are ahead for Jordanian democracy.

"The tolerance of the Government toward the opposition is next to zero now," Dr. Labib Qamhawi, vice president of the Arab Organization for Human Rights, told THE STAR. The Government, he added, "is willing to tolerate symbolic opposition which is not effective in terms of the international media or in terms of moving the street."

The opposition is particularly concerned in the aftermath of the violent attack on IAF Deputy 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant on Friday. Abu-Zant, an outspoken critic of the peace process and a volatile orator, was attacked by several unknown men in the Abu-Hurayrah mosque in East Amman. He received 15 stitches to the head and 7 on the leg. Several newspapers linked to the opposition have accused the Government of collusion in the attack.

"What happened on Friday doesn't make anyone happy," remarked Hilmi al-Asmar, editor-in-chief of the Islamist weekly, Al-SABIL. He stressed that the opposition is motivated by patriotism, and a dedication to the interests of Jordan. "We are a constructive, not a destructive opposition... The voice of the opposition is nothing to be ashamed of. it is proof that the people are alive and aware."

On Saturday Parliament discussed the incident at Abu-Hurayrah, and deputies condemned the attack on deputy Abu-Zant. They also reiterated the right of all Jordanians to express their opinions.

Such reassuring statements notwithstanding, the opposition is worried that the Government has placed the peace process above democracy. "This period requires absolute obedience, and this is why democracy is a luxury that the Government will not tolerate or accept," said Labib Qamhawi. He added, however, that this is a phase, and the system will loosen up within a few months. "After everything is finalized and settled down, the only way the Government can give legitimacy to what has happened...is through the reintroduction of some democratic measures."

Qamhawi also decried the tendency to paint the opposition with a broad brush, characterizing it as predominantly Islamist. "Many nationalists, many pan-Arabists, many normal, ordinary Jordanians are against this treaty. Some are against the very principle because they don't trust the Israelis, and some, who are more sophisticated, are against the kind of concessions which this treaty gave to the Israel."

Pro-agreement deputy Abu-Jamus conceded that the speed with which the agreement was concluded and signed has left many Jordanians in a state of shock. With time, however, they will become accustomed to the new reality. "It is not easy," he said, "for people after 45 years of war and hostility to suddenly come and say 'we are friends.'"

For some in the opposition, the best way to face the challenge of confronting the coming phase will be to simply keep their heads down and wait until it is over. Said AL-SABIL's Hilmi al-Asmar: "If we try to resist this tempest, it will destroy. So we must ride out the storm until it passes."

Antitreaty Deputy Says Opposition 'Broad'

JN0311150694 Amman THE STAR in English
3-9 Nov 94 p 3

[Interview with Bassam Haddadin, "independent" deputy in the Jordanian House of Representatives, by Ra'id al-'Abid in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **The peace agreement was negotiated and signed in what many people consider record time. In your opinion, what was the reason for the timing? Why was the agreement concluded so quickly?**

I think the reason behind the government's haste to sign the treaty and go alone with the settlement is that the government wanted to take advantage of the situation during the Arab-Israeli negotiations. The Israelis want to use progress with Jordan as pressure so that Lebanon and Syria will also sign a peace treaty.

It is clear that there is also an American-Israeli insistence to penetrate the Jordanian front to solve their internal issues. The American President needs fast victories on the external front to help his party in the coming legislative elections. Also the Israeli prime minister needs this rapid progress to improve his party's popularity.

The government's priorities is the interest of Jordan. Whilst I agree with this, nevertheless, we have to consider the interests of others.

It is also clear that the action of the government was a reaction to what has happened on the Palestinian level. This includes the Oslo and Cairo accords setting self-rule for the Palestinians. This meant that the Palestinians, however tentatively, were removed from the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Palestinians practically chose to go it alone without any consultations with the other parties involved in the peace negotiations.

This is why Jordan came to put its interests first.

How do you view the government's fear of the opposition's activities?

The government is over reacting. It is panicking.

This is because it realizes the real size of the opposition to this treaty is broad, and that Jordanians are prepared to express their opinion in different forms.

This is why the government has "inflated" the security measures it has taken. This included deploying the Army and other security agencies in the streets to prevent any peaceful and democratic activity and they even banned legal activities.

This exaggerated reaction has driven us to the limits of anxiety, reminding us of the era of martial law, when we were denied the minimum rights of expression.

The government does not need to take such action, creating psychological fear because our people are aware and educated, and has the ability to express their opinion in a civilized and democratic way. These provocations (by the government) will only widen the gap between the government and the people. What is urgently needed now is to deepen democracy and freedom of expression.

How do you expect Jordanians to react when Israeli tourists and businessmen arrive in Jordan?

I believe that there is a psychological barrier between Jordanians and Israelis that was built over long painful years of bloody conflict, in which the Arab side suffered from Israeli injustice and aggression.

Jordanians feel that this treaty with Israel is imposed upon them. The (Israelis) agreed to sign a treaty because they are in a stronger position than us. I believe that Jordanians will suffer the most from normalization.

Peace requires changes in the school curriculum. How do you feel about that?

Any review of the curriculum of schools and universities does not proceed from the objective of improving the educational system but it serves the narrow interests of other parties. Therefore, it will harm our sovereignty, education and civilization.

I will strongly resist any external interference in our educational system. Jordanian education should be the sole concern of Jordanian authors. Writing our history must be left to us.

Pro-Treaty Deputy Says Nation Supports Peace

JN0311150394 Amman THE STAR in English 3-9 Nov 94 p 3

[Interview with Hammad Abu-Jamus, independent member of the House of Representatives and a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, by Ben Wedeman in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **The peace agreement was negotiated and signed in what many people consider record time. In your opinion, what was the reason for the timing? Why was the agreement concluded so quickly?**

It wan't conclouded so quickly. The negotiations have been going on since Madrid, and Jordan agreed with Israel on the agenda long before anyone else. But Jordan waited all that time for the other Arab parties to complete their negotiations in order to have a complete and comprehensive agreement. But Jordan realized that the Palestinians went to Oslo and ran their own show, and that the Syrians and the Lebanese are on their way to running their own show. So Jordan decided to come up with the agreement which has already been negotiated and discussed.

Do you think the Jordanian people are ready for peace this quickly?

Through the real opinion of the people, and where I come from, where I run my show during the elections, more than 84 percent of the people support peace with Israel. I must say that the speed with which it came surprised so many people, so that they are in a sort of shock about the speed. But I assure you that more than 84 percent of the eople are with the peace.

The opposition is complaining that they are not being given the opportunity to air their views. What is your reaction to that?

We sit every day in the Parliament and their views are carried out in the local media and they circulate their opinion about what is going on. They have their own papers, I read their papers. And there isn't a single word taken from what they say, so they have complete freedom to express their opinions.

Although in some cases their marches and demonstations have been banned.

They banned it for both supporters and opponents. They haven't banned (demonstrations): all that the government wants is that they obtain permission. Anybody who gets permission will be allowed to (demonstrate). and there was a demonstration at Jordan University just the other day.

What is your position on the possible modification of school curriculums to conform with the articles of the peace agreement?

I'm not sure what is going to take place, what curriculum they want, but that is a subject that will be left to the technical committee, with the minister of education, the minister of higher education, and so on. I cannot really comment on this.

The agreement also includes an article that bans hostile propaganda to the other party. Isn't there a possibility that that article could be interpreted to put pressure on the opposition not to express itself.

No sir, absolutely not. This article applies only to the official media, but not to the press. There is a specific article in the peace agreement which gives full freedom to anybody to express their opinion.

No matter how hostile that might be to Israel?

It could be both, because there are people in Israel hostile to Jordan. This is the freedom of speech. It is guaranteed by both.

How do you think ordinary Jordanians, people on the streets of Amman, are going to respond to the presence, very soon, of Israeli tourists and businessmen?

I believe they will eventually accept it. But it will take some time. You have to remember we have been at war for the last 45 years. It is not easy for people after 45 years of war and hostility to suddenly come and say "you are my friends." It is in the Arabic tradition that there are always feuds, and then there is conciliation. You kiss each other and then you become friends. But even that takes some time before you normalize among yourselves, even among Arabs. So with the Israelis, it will take some time to accept them.

So can we look at the agreement as the kissing and making up? Now can we expect the people to greet the Israelis with open arms?

That is what I said. Among Arabs, it is our tradition, when you have enmity between two sides, that you reconcile by kissing each other and shaking hands, but it takes some time afterwards to adjust yourself psychologically.

Last week there was an incident between a Jordanian and an American tourist who was actually an Israeli...

This is one of the odd cases. Yesterday there was an incident in which someone was stabbed at a chemist. Why don't you say something about it? Why do you make a fuss about (the first incident) and not that one? It is a normal thing. It happens in the streets of London, New York, and even Tel Aviv.

Although the police made a direct link between the citizenship of the man stabbed and the incident.

Yes, but it is still one of those incidents which rarely happen in Jordan, very, very rarely. Jordan is the most stable country in the Middle East, as you know. If one isolated incident takes place, it shouldn't be made into a big issue.

The day the treaty was signed I spoke with a student from Jordan University who said he was worried because he saw on Israeli television that everyone was celebrating, while in Amman it was quiet. How do you react to that, to the idea that Israel has more to celebrate than Jordan does?

This is what I said before. To us it was so sudden, every though the people knew in advance that we have been negotiating for the past three years. The time had come when this peace treaty had to be finalized. But because it came so quickly, people were stunned, but not because people are against peace. I assure you that the vast majority of the Jordanian people is with peace.

Political Prisoner Released From Syrian Jail

JN3110104794 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Oct 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by Ma'mun al-Rawsan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Dafi al-Jam'ani returned to Amman yesterday evening after being released by the Syrian authorities yesterday morning.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, al-Jam'ani, who spent 23 years in Syrian prisons, said: His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to release me have been successful. The king delegated [former Prime Minister] Zayd al-Rifa'i to mediate my release with the Syrian authorities. He added: The release order was expected four months ago and was not a surprise. [passage omitted]

It is noteworthy that al-Jam'ani was one of the prisoners of conscience whose case was taken up by Amnesty International and by other Arab and international humanitarian organizations. He was an Arab Army officer, a member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party until 1970, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Popular Liberation War Vanguards-al-Sa'iqah until his arrest.

Hizballah on Safety of Jewish Tourists, Trade

NC0311065894 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has warned against normalization between the Arabs and Israel, stressing that Jewish tourists and trade in the region will not be safe.

In a statement following the economic summit for the Middle East and North Africa in Casablanca, Hizballah said that the people of the region reject the normalization the regimes are trying to force on them. The statement added that the nation will resist normalization and will strike blows at it, because its goal is to create a Middle East common market with its capital in Tel Aviv.

Israeli Shelling Follows Attack; Base Hit

NC0411103094 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Resistance elements this morning detonated an explosive device as a South Lebanese Army [SLA] foot patrol was passing near Kafr Huna in the Jazzin area. A Resistance statement said all the members of the patrol were killed or wounded in the operation. Security sources confirmed the operation and said one SLA member was killed.

Following the attack Israeli and SLA artillery in al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rihan shelled the area opposite Kafr Huna, concentrating on al-Jabal al-Rafi' and the Nab' al-Tasah basin.

Today SLA elements found the body of an Islamic Resistance member while they were combing Bayt Yahun.

Our correspondent in Tyre reported that the headquarters of the Irish contingent in Haris was hit by five mortar shells during Israeli shelling of villages in the central sector yesterday. Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], said soldiers' living quarters and communication rooms were extensively damaged and the clinic and three military vehicles were also damaged. The Irish contingent's center in Bayt Yahun was also hit by hundreds of machine-gun rounds fired from an Israeli position in the town. Goksel said UNIFIL did not identify the source of the fire but said this type of round is used by the Israelis.

LF Statement Urges Christians To Stand Fast

MM0111163094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Forces Command Council: Leadership Responsible for Resistance's Defeat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Command Council of the (outlawed) "Lebanese Forces" [LF] held its regular meeting and issued the following statement:

"1. The LF, proceeding from a reality that has become clear and a comprehensive review of developments since 1989, acknowledges that the Christian resistance was dealt a severe blow that led to a historic defeat with dramatic results. The Command Council holds those who took charge of the Christians' leadership—political, military, and spiritual—including the Forces' leadership itself, responsible for this huge defeat. However, the LF, despite the horror of the catastrophe that has afflicted Lebanon and the Christians, does not believe that this defeat is final, despite the worsening reality. Because the Christian people in Lebanon experienced similar crises throughout their history and managed to overcome them. Adherence to values and principles was the marked factor in rising up after the defeats, despite all the pressures. On that basis, the LF once again announces the withdrawal of its recognition of the al-Ta'if agreement and its rejection of all its results and by-products. The Forces' position comes within the framework of protecting the Lebanese Christians' rights in the future and working to find a serious alternative to the regime in the framework of the people's right to determine their destiny, and to secure freedom, security, and peace for all the peoples in the region.

"2. The LF urges the people to stand fast, despite all forms of pressure, repression, and freedom suppression. The Forces addresses in particular the young people, calling on them to stand solidly in their positions and to assume the task of mobilizing society and protecting it against the disease of frustration. The priority at this stage is the psychological battle and its moral results. Because the present authorities and forces hostile to the Christians are working with all their strength to strike at the Christian identity and to eliminate the Lebanese Christians' rights. Thus it is clear that the natural response to this onslaught is to adhere to the identity and historic convictions until the right conditions arrive.

"3. The LF believes that regional developments involve numerous dangers for Lebanon and its Christians in particular. Because they might bring changes that must be benefited from if the factors are adequate. If the framework of the Arab-Israeli peace expands to include more radical states, including Syria, and if a serious and practical peace is established between Israel and the Syrian regime, there are changes which can be benefited from in order to exploit peace to recover part of the political freedom. But if the peace process falters and is destroyed by radical and fundamentalist forces, we must prepare for a crucial struggle phase to restore the balance of powers in the region and in Lebanon.

"4. The LF Command Council announces that it is in the process of reshaping and organizing what has become fragmented, scattered, and 'deviant' in the resistance institution. Obviously this process will require a lot of time and extraordinary efforts in these circumstances. Thus the council, even though it has started slowly as regards taking organizational steps and suitable measures, once again warns everyone entrusted with part of the the resistance's destiny inside and outside the country against squandering or concealing it.

"5. The LF Command Council announces that it has become the sole supreme authority for all LF institutions. It warns any group or former official—inside or outside the country—not to speak in the LF's name. The council urges the groups supporting the Christian resistance line to continue their mobilization work and wait for further instructions from the Command Council."

Russian Envoy Meets With Buwayz, Comments

NC0311151694 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Posuvalyuk, special envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, has begun talks with Lebanese officials. He met at noon today at the Foreign Ministry with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in the presence of Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan and Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev. The discussion focused on the peace process in the Middle East, Russia's role in it, and the results of Minister Kozyrev's talks in Damascus. Kozyrev's talks are part of the Russian diplomacy's offensive to activate its role in the region. The discussion also dealt with bilateral relations.

The Russian envoy avoided responding to Rabin's statement on UN Resolution 425. He pointed out that Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev had discussed the Lebanese issue in his talks both in Casablanca and Damascus. Here is a report from our correspondent Khalil Fulayhan:

[Begin recording] [Fulayhan] Russian envoy Posuvalyuk evaded answering a question on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that Resolution 425 is dead for him. He disclosed that Russia had started studying President al-Hirawi's recent proposal to set a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from the south within six months. He noted that his country needs some time before giving its position on this proposal. The interesting thing is that in his dialogue with journalists, Posuvalyuk only picked up on questions he wanted to answer. He did not want to relate the results of the investigations conducted by his country's authorities into the murder of two Lebanese traders near Moscow in June. The Russian envoy made his remarks following his meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, and Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev. Here is part of Posuvalyuk's remarks:

[Posuvalyuk] In the name of Russia, I say that we seek a comprehensive solution in the peace process. We want movement on all negotiating tracks. We support the implementation of all UN Resolutions, including 242, 338, and 425. We back Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could you tell us your country's position on President al-Hirawi's proposal to activate the negotiations, particularly since Russia is a cosponsor of the Madrid conference?

[Posuvalyuk] Frankly, we need some time to discuss the president's ideas. We have already started to study them. [end recording]

Economic, Trade Agreement With China Initialed

NC3110180194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement for economic, trade, and technical cooperation between Lebanon and the PRC was initialed at the Economy and Trade Ministry today in the presence of Minister Hagop Demerdjian and members of the official Chinese delegation. The agreement was signed for Lebanon by Muhammad Jawad al-Amin, director general of the Economy and Trade Ministry, and for China by the director of the Western Asia and Africa section at the Chinese Ministry of Trade and Economic Cooperation. Minister Demerdjian said the Lebanese economy has recovered and become promising. He said the main aim of the agreement is to raise the standard of living of the people in both countries.

France's Juppe Says Country Crucial to Stability

MM0211142994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din: "Juppe Tells AL-HAYAH: Christians' Infighting Was Suicide"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Paris—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has stressed that the time "has come for Lebanese Christians to participate in rebuilding and in political life." In a statement to AL-HAYAH he said that Christian infighting is "suicide." [passage omitted]

Juppe told AL-HAYAH that Lebanon's regaining of its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and coexistence role in the peace framework is very important in terms of the region's balance and stability.

He said: "I listened with great interest to Cardinal Sufayr, who briefed me on his fears over the situation in Lebanon as regards human rights and the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord. His beatitude's stands are known and deserve a pause for examination."

He added that he reemphasized to Sufayr "France's determination to do all it can so that peace in the Middle East will [not] be established at Lebanon's expense." He pointed out that this question can be the object of questioning from time to time. "We French are facing difficulties in promoting the idea that Lebanon must regain its sovereignty and territorial integrity in full within the peace process framework, so that it can return to its previous status—a model of coexistence among the various sects."

He stressed that France will not abandon its idea in this connection and that it will continue to promote it. And that it has to convince its European partners of it in order to benefit from their influence in this context. He expressed his hope that Christian reconciliation will be achieved. "Because fratricide and infighting among Christian ranks was suicidal." He said that "when Christians reconcile, they will become stronger, and the time has come for them to participate in rebuilding and in political life. [passage omitted]

Writer Urges 'Fundamentalists' To Change Policy

NC0411092494 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 22 Oct 94 p 7

[Article by Nimr Nimr in the "Black and White" column: "Najib Mahfuz"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fundamentalist insanity, a form of miserable hysteria, is sweeping the nation.

Jewish racism has brought us to this low point. Terrorism, the usurping of our land, wars, defeats, and puppet rulers have driven the Arab masses to illogical solutions.

The Persian-Ottoman-Hebrew siege against us leads repressed young people to try to kill intellectuals, journalists, and scientists.

They have encircled the fertile crescent with a blockade and told the despondent among us that our wise people are the enemy. They told the frustrated that thinking is the cause of the Arabs' calamity. Consequently the lunatics were set loose on men of reason, assassinating them and stabbing them with a knife that is never turned against the enemy. This knife kills reason and turns the nation into a mindless monster.

Stop fighting the wrong battles, stop aiming your rifles in the wrong direction. The road to Jerusalem does not go through the throat of Najib Mahfuz. The Nobel prize for literature is not like the prize of defeat to which Yasir 'Arafat put his thumbprint, though with some reluctance. They called Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] a terrorist because he tried to liberate land by struggle (with some reservations over his foreign links). Today he is the "hero" of peace because he halted the struggle.

What do you call Rabin, leader of the state that has usurped the territory of Jerusalem, the Golan, south Lebanon, and west Jordan? What do you call the Labor Party's war general since 1948? How do you describe the abductor of [Hizballah official] Mustafa al-Dirani from his home? What do you call the killer of Lebanese children? What do you call him, America? Reply without resorting to excessive whorishness [al-'uhr al-mutamadi].

Your agents read Arabic well, speak it with consummate skill, and their speeches are full of one-upmanship about pan-Arabism and nationalism. I hope they will relay my words to you so that your conscience might, hopefully, awake from its Zionist-influenced dormancy.

You, America, nourish the hotbeds of terrorism and extremism. Is it a kind of Kissinger strategy?

They tried recently to eliminate a symbol of Egyptian renaissance. Their masters wanted the foremost litterateur Najib Mahfuz dead so they rewarded his service to the Egyptian public and Arabdom with a stab in the neck.

They showed their gratitude in the form of utter treachery, because Mahfuz taught them with words and narrated to them the stories of Cairo, the streets of the poor, the coffee houses of the simple folk, and the alleys.

You might think from their action that Mahfuz was a billionaire responsible for Africa's hunger, the Third World's debt burden, or the armament budgets, or indeed that he was Shamir, Clinton, or Sharon.

I spit on this extremism. In Kuwait they glorify George Bush for his "achievements" and in Egypt they cover the ink of humanist struggle and honest sweat with Najib Mahfuz' blood.

Fie on such a revolution and fie on such a fate. How deep are you dragging us down, O fundamentalists? This is not the road to Jerusalem and the path to Calvary does not pass through Algeria. It is time you started to understand. Change the policy you follow, because this is the path the United States wants you to pursue.

If you do not change yourselves, you will not change one letter in the game of fate.

Be the guardians of Najib Mahfuz and people like him. Do not be like those who do the stabbing.

Israeli Reaction to Damascus Summit Criticized

JN3110165294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 31 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Damascus summit between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton has provided a new opportunity for Syria to reiterate, in the clearest possible manner, its desire for a just peace that will return all rights to their lawful owners, dismantle occupation, end bloodshed, and safeguard man's dignity. The Syrian and U.S. views were identical on the importance of achieving peace on the basis of the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process; namely, Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging territory for peace. It goes without saying that implementing the two aforesaid resolutions and upholding the land-for-peace formula will help achieve a just and comprehensive peace that will break the vicious circle of violence and destruction and lay the groundwork for a secure and stable future in the region.

It was only natural for the Syrian and U.S. sides to reach such an identity of views, particularly since the administration of U.S. President Clinton has declared its commitment to playing the role of an honest and fair broker in the peace process, and also since Syria has not departed from the framework charted by all the peace initiatives grounded in the relevant UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

Hence, President Clinton's assertion that peace must be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging territory for peace came reinforces Syria's position, which is grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions that enjoy the support of the entire world community. Nonetheless, one poses the following questions: Since there is an identity of views between Syria and the United States on the bases of peace and the need to achieve peace, and since the entire world community is supportive of peace efforts, why is the peace process being obstructed? Which party is placing obstacles on the way of this process?

We do not need a great deal of hard work to answer these questions. The disappointment expressed by several senior Israeli officials in the aftermath of the Damascus summit, and their attempts to belittle the outcome of this summit, contending that Syria has provided nothing new, all show the party that is trying to evade the true components of peace. This is the same party that is placing obstacles and barriers on the way of peace.

The negative statements Israeli officials have made about the Damascus summit are neither understandable nor warranted. Instead of pushing the peace process forward, as Syria has done, Israel has chosen to place obstacles in the way of peace. As a matter of fact, it is attempting to pull the peace process backwards. Syria has declared its willingness to achieve peace, and to meet its requirements so the region can live in security, stability, and prosperity. By contrast, the Israeli positions have remained unchanged. As for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, he has dwarfed the issue of withdrawal and rendered it a mere negotiating chip which he believes he cannot relinquish. Is it not strange that Israeli officials address almost everything every day, with the exception of complete withdrawal, at a time when the entire world community, including the U.S. sponsor of the talks, reiterates that withdrawal is an indispensable prerequisite of just and comprehensive peace?

There can be no bargaining over the Syrian territory Israel has occupied since 1967, which Rabin views as his trump card. Moreover, there can be no talk of true peace if a single grain of this territory remains under occupation. Rabin, and other Israeli leaders are well aware of this fact. Pretending otherwise will only result in a greater waste of time and effort. Such conduct will also banish further than ever the current opportunity for peace.

Only Israel can cut short the time and place the region in the true climate of peace. The future of the entire peace process is contingent upon its stand. When Israel declares a willingness to effect complete and full withdrawal, just peace will undoubtedly spread in the region, which has long suffered from wars and devastation. When will Israel act to help achieve such a peace?

Rabbi Dismissed; Jews' Situation 'Very Good'

MM0311112694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Jewish Community Leader in Syria Announces Dismissal of Rabbi Hamra"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Yusuf Jajati, member of the Jewish Community Council in Syria, has announced the dismissal of the community's Rabbi Ibrahim Hamra, who is now in Israel.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Jajati said that he has been managing the community's affairs since Hamra's departure for Israel. He added that the dismissal decision was made by the community in Syria and, therefore, Rabbi Hamra no longer represents that community.

Jajati said that Ibrahim Hamra abandoned his community in Syria and left for Israel, leaving behind hundreds of children without allocations for expenses and dozens of teachers without salaries, and he abandoned the schools and synagogues and ignored the needs of the community members. That, he said, made a bad impression on the members of the Jewish community in Syria, and that is why the entire community has decided to abandon him as he abandoned it.

He added: We no longer accept him as our representative or spokesman. We draw attention to that and we warn the Arab and Western media against identifying him as the Jewish rabbi in Syria because our representative should be someone who lives with us—not someone else—especially if that someone else lives in Israel. We reject him as rabbi of the Jewish community in Syria.

The situation of the Syrian Jews, Jajati said, is very good and they have absolute freedom of movement and are free to travel and come back as they wish, just like any Syrian. He added that the Syrian authorities are providing all kinds of assistance and facilities and that no less than 51 individuals returned over the past 10 days from the United States to settle down in Syria again, having found life difficult there, and more are expected to arrive within the next few days.

Asked what would be the position of the Jewish Community Council in Damascus if Hamra returned to Syria, he replied: If he returns to look after the community and its affairs sincerely, then we might reconsider his position but now the community does not accept him as its rabbi, and we are seeking the help of Jewish rabbis from abroad, such as Turkey, in the ceremonial functions and slaughter rites until a new rabbi is appointed.

Chinese Deputy Chief of Staff Arrives

JN0211160694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received in his office today Lieutenant General Cao Gangchuan, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Chinese Peoples' Liberation Army and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Hasan Turkumani, deputy chief of the general staff of the Army and Armed Forces, the Chinese ambassador, and the military attache at the Chinese embassy in Damascus.

Talks dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly armies and ways of promoting them.

Afghanistan

Herat Governor Meets With UN Special Envoy

LD0311182394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mohammad Esmail, general amir of the western zone and governor of Herat Province, held talks yesterday with Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general, on finding a solution to the country's current problems.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports from the city of Herat that Mestiri arrived in Herat to hold talks with the commanders and officials of the western zone. Esteemed Dr. 'Abdol Samad Hamid [former deputy prime minister], Esteemed Soltan Mahmud Ghazi, Esteemed Masud Khalili, and Esteemed Commander 'Abdol Haq, are accompanying Mestriri on this (?trip). Leaders of Herat, Badghis, Farah, and Helmand Provinces also (?took part in this meeting).

Esteemed Mohammad Esmail Khan expressed appreciation for the joint endeavor of the UN delegation and [word indistinct] Afghan (?personalities). [words indistinct].

India

Pakistani Arrested for Involvement in Kidnapping

BK0211161694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Delhi police today arrested a Pakistani national involved in the kidnapping of an American tourist rescued by Ghaziabad police on Monday [31 October]. The police commissioner, Mr. M.B. Kaushal, told newsmen in the capital that the accused, Saifullah Khan, has admitted his involvement in the kidnapping. Saifullah disclosed that he belongs to militant outfit Harkat-ul-Ansar and he entered India via Punch along with the other five militants. He said he had weapon training in Afghanistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Some incriminating documents and weapons have been recovered from him. The police commissioner said a case has been registered under various provisions of TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act] against Saifullah. The police is to nab four more militants involved in the kidnapping.

Russian Parliamentary Team Arrives for Visit

BK0411044994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A 14-member Russian parliamentary delegation arrived in New Delhi on a five-day visit. This follows the prime minister's call for closer bilateral contacts between the lawmakers of the two countries during his recent visit to Russia. The delegation is led by Mr. (Ivan Petrovic Ribkin), Chairman of the State's Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian federation.

Support Assured for UNSC Restructuring

BK0411093694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830GMT 4 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia has assured to support India's claim in any restructuring of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. This was conveyed to the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, by a Russian Federal Assembly delegation in New Delhi. The 16-member delegation led by the chairman of the state's Duma, (Mr. Ivan Petrovic Ribkin), is currently on a six-day visit to India. The delegation in its meeting with the prime minister today reaffirmed Russia's support to bilateral settlement of disputes between New Delhi and Islamabad in the light of the Simla Agreement. Mr. Narasimha Rao, during the meeting, recalled his recent visit to Moscow and the signing of the Moscow Declaration. The Russian delegation, reaffirming the unique characteristics of the Moscow Declaration, said that bilateral relations have been restored to the past level. The delegation also informed that the Russian prime minister, Mr. Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, will visit India next month. The leader of the delegation, (Mr. Ribkin), said his country would like to benefit from India's experience of harmony in the background of ethnic diversities.

Iran

Pro-Montazeri Mullas Arrested for 'Sedition'

MM0211161794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Nov 94 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Arrest of Nine Montazeri Supporters and Escalation of Campaign Against Intellectuals"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Tehran, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to reports from Tehran, nine mullas close to Ayatollah Hoseyn Montazeri have been arrested in a number of Iranian cities where the government is apparently facing a wave of protests from various sectors of society.

Units of "street fighters" belonging to the pro-government Hezbollah took up positions in a number of university buildings to prevent student protests.

The pro-Montazeri mullas were arrested on 29 October but opposition sources only confirmed the arrests yesterday. They have been accused of instigating sedition through the distribution of copies of a long "open letter" written by Montazeri and criticizing the government.

In his letter, Montazeri referred indirectly to a recent protest message carrying the signatures of 53 intellectuals. He said that the current government "recklessly wasted the asset of goodwill" built up by the revolution since its outset. Without mentioning the Republic's leader 'Ali Khamene'i by name, Montazeri warned that any interference by government officials in religious matters would be resisted by all true believers.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the opposition Nation of Iran Party has stated that the authorities recently arrested General 'Azizollah Amir Rahimi, a former military police commander.

Although not a member himself, Rahimi is believed to have the support of that party, which is led by Daryush Foruhar, a former labor minister in Ayatollah Khomeyni's government.

Rahimi had published a number of open letters calling for the resignation of the ruling mullas and for the formation of "a government of national salvation." [passage omitted]

Mohajerani Suggests Change in Presidential Term

LD3010121194 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Vice-President for Parliamentary Affairs 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani said that if the constitution could be amended President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is the most qualified person to take office in the next term.

Interviewed by the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, printed Sunday, Mohajerani touched on the next round of presidential elections and said "I believe that there may be an amendment to the constitution."

As for the establishment of political parties, Mohajerani said in his view multi-party system should be meticulously articulated and clarified. In fact, he added, the parties with clear-cut policies and platforms will bring peace to the community. Therefore, he noted, it is all right if the country's existing political groups set up political parties Mohajerani said and meanwhile expressed hope that the Interior Ministry would follow up the matter.

Asked about likelihood of confusing high prices and profiteering and prompting press to make hue and cry, Mohajerani confirmed the issue and referred to the news printed in certain dailies in Tehran claiming that of the $80 billion foreign currency income in the first five-year development plan $10 billion has been allocated to luxury goods and refuted the news as principally false. To the contrary, the government encouraged exports so that the exporters could use their own foreign currency income to import goods that are not banned, Mohajerani added.

On struggle against profiteering, Mohajerani said of course the government will counter profiteering abuses not price hikes. As an example he referred to domestic gasoline consumption in the year 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] which increased to 33 million liters from 15 million liters in the year 1363 [year beginning 21 March 1984]. Even if crude oil was free, the government would still have to spend at least rials 90 to turn the crude oil into oil byproducts.

If we give cheap gasoline to people, country's oil resources could be exhausted after 12 years, he said. "In order to prevent fuel consumption from being equal to its production and avoid lagging behind in economic development, we have to accept logical price hikes," Mohajerani stressed.

According to him, profiteering exists because the distribution and production networks are not aware of the culture of earning logical profits. Meanwhile, he admitted that the first five-year development plan had not been quite successful in this regard.

Asked if the issue of price hikes would be used by groups campaigning in the upcoming elections of the Majles, Mohajerani said the issue might be used in two ways. Firstly, all government proposals for logical price hikes were ratified by this Majlis and the present Majlis deputies cannot shift their position at the election season. Second, political groups may take advantage of the situation so as to portray profiteering as the failure of the government economic policy.

3 MKO 'Terrorists' Seized at Iraqi Border

LD0211223894 Tehran IRNA in English 2132 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Three members of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq organization (MKO) were nabbed while trying to sneak into Iran through the Iraqi border in Ilam, disclosed a security official here today. He said the three were captured on Sunday last and after due interrogation had confessed to their membership in the terrorist grouplet.

The official said further information about the objectives behind of the terrorists would be revealed when investigations are over.

The MKO after years of close cooperation with the Iraqi Army and information services against the interests of the Iranian and Iraqi Muslim people were on October 5 last month officially incorporated in the Ba'thist army by Iraqi Defence Minister 'Ali Hassan al-Majid.

Radio "Voice of the Iraqi People", which belongs to the Iraqi opposition forces, had reported yesterday that the Ba'thist security and information service "Estekhbarat" had set up a special coordination camp called "Dar-ul-Azeem" near Baghdad to help MKO terrorists in their operations inside Iran.

Following the sacrilegious bomb explosion by the MKO at the shrine of Ali-Ibn-Musa al-Redha (pbuh) [peace be upon him] in Mashhad and the murder of two Christian pastors, MKO terrorists martyred two border dwellers who had put up tents in Ilam near the Iraqi border.

Iran has time and again filed complaints to the United Nations Security Council of Iraq's support to the MKO mercenaries, including logistics and military assistance to enable them to violate Iranian territory and attack on the border dwellers.

New Newspaper for 'Islamic Radicals' Published

NC2210153294 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 22 (AFP)—A newspaper representing Islamic radicals appeared on Iranian news-stands this week aimed at promoting political pluralism.

In its first editorial, the bi-monthly 'ASR-E MA (OUR ERA) said it supported the formation of political parties in Iran in a bid to encourage "broader participation" in politics. There are no organised political parties in Iran, although the country's constitution explicitly recognises the right to form them.

The paper, founded by former Agriculture Minister Mohammad Salamati, said it also sought to raise important issues in the areas of politics, economics and social affairs.

But 'ASR-E MA had no intention of engaging in "useless quarrels" with other political factions in Iran, the editorial stressed, adding that it represented the Organisation of the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution in Iran (OMIRI). OMIRI, headed by Salamati, was created in 1991 after the dissolution of another radical organisation, the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution. The latter had split from the main armed Iranian opposition group, the People's Mojahedin.

Officials Urged To Mark Anti-U.S. Day on 4 Nov

NC0411102094 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Oct 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "2 November Is 4 November"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ceremonies marking 4 November, the national day of struggle against arrogance, will be held on 2 November this year. The explanations given as to why this day was chosen instead of Friday 4 November have not been convincing. This is why we must recall some points and ask officials in charge to review their decision before it is too late and to mark the 4 November anniversary on 4 November.

1. The significance of 4 November as the day on which three important and fateful incidents took place—the exiling of the imam by the shah's regime, the massacre of students by the Pahlavi executioner, and the occupation of the den of espionage by the students following the Imam's line—dictate that each year 4 November be marked as the anniversary of the three incidents. In the same way that the victory of the Islamic revolution is marked on 11 February and the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Republic is marked on 1 April each year, ceremonies marking the 4 November incidents should be held on 4 November and not on any other day. An exception to this natural rule can be acceptable only in cases of emergency, as was the case with Jerusalem Day, which was once marked one week ahead to avoid disagreement among the Muslim nations over time differences and to avert plots by enemies. But this is not the case this year with the 4 November ceremonies.

2. This year 4 November is a Friday. Friday is the day on which people gather for prayers and naturally this gathering offers a very favorable opportunity for them to express their aversion toward America. Due to its spirituality, the best possible use can be made of a Friday to make anti-arrogance shouts louder and clearer.

3. Friday is a holiday, and if correctly planned and publicized, it can be the best opportunity to gather a huge crowd of people for the anti-American demonstrations. The officials in charge can seize the opportunity of the week ahead to explain the situation to the world and to the region and clearly list America's crimes and the need for an epic presence on the scene of the fight against the great Satan, thus turning Friday into a spectacular day of anti- American gathering.

Our people are good people and are ready to support the revolution and the system in any way they can. By correct planning and publicity and by keeping the public informed, the best possible use can be made of the spirituality that Friday offers as a day and the 4 November anti-arrogance demonstrations can be marked on 4 November.

'Lesson' of U.S. Embassy Occupation Viewed

NC0311202894 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Oct 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by 'Alireza Shemirani: "Participation in Wednesday's Marches—Why?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The uprising by our nation had an objective that extended beyond a mere change in the ruling system. In a broader perspective, the Islamic revolution hoisted the banner of a struggle against the "totalitarianism of tyranny and oppression" regardless of which part of the world the powers of arrogance had embarked on their plunder and belligerence.

Fifteen years ago, before the victory of the Islamic revolution and at the outset of the uprising, the architect and imam of the revolution had delineated a strategy of "a struggle against the United States and despotic Israel."

It was on the basis of this principle that the U.S. President was given the title of the most accursed individual by our nation and the slogan of "Today Iran, tomorrow Palestine!" gained immortality.

2. The dismantling of the previous regime dealt a heavy blow to the United States and the Zionist regime, but even the victory of this main bastion did not awaken the Zionist manipulators of the U.S. Administration. Why?

First of all, the Islamic revolution—like all other revolutions—was analyzed as relying on the (former) Eastern Bloc and as having links beyond the country's geographical borders. (This point was a source of hope for the enemies of the revolution; they were confident that they could come to terms with the officials of such a government, which had foreign affiliations, even if it was an opposing bloc.)

Second, the presence of "liberal [preceding word in English] and influential" elements at the outset was a heartening factor for their reentry by the back door.

On 4 November in 1357 [year beginning 21 March 1979] with the occupation of the U.S. den of spies [U.S. Embassy in Tehran], the truth transpired when all the obsequious elements affiliated with the West were pushed aside and the Islamic revolution's strategy was implemented. The Zionists and the Americans clearly understood the message of the Islamic revolution, but they continued to make major errors on their appraisal of it and the identification of its bases.

The generating of internal conflict; the arousal of nationalistic, ethnic, and religious differences; direct military action; plotting of coups d'etats; and imposition of an economic embargo—all of which indicate the impotence of the American theoreticians [preceding word in English]—were foiled one after another.

During the course of the occupation of Afghanistan by the usurpist armies of the former Soviet Union and the imam's clear stance in supporting the Muslim revolutionaries against the occupation of the Red Army, the U.S. administrators realized that the phenomenon of the Islamic Revolution does not compare with, or conform to, any of the previous revolutions and movements but has created a new precedent: "Nonreliance on the East and West and a struggle against the powers of arrogance."

The East and West united so that they could destroy the Islamic revolution militarily by using servile elements, such as Saddam and the Ba'th Party. In fact, they used whatever tricks they had up their sleeves. When after a full-scale, eight-year war they found the Islamic revolution as rock-solid as ever, and on the contrary they were assailed by fears of the danger to the Ba'thist rulers in Iraq, the true director (the United States) entered the fray directly.

3. The unfortunate former U.S. defense secretary announced: "We should scorch the root of the Iranian nation." The rancor and malevolence of the U.S. administrators and of the Zionist regime against the Iranian nation stems from the spirit of "freedom-seeking and struggling against tyranny" present in the heroic and loyal Iranian people. All the hopes of the U.S. Government in the past 16 years centered on how to enter into dealings with the Iranian officials, one way or another, and at all costs to sit at the negotiating table with the officials of our dear system on the subject of our national independence and our struggle against tyranny.

However, it was all in vain as our officials are also one of the people. They consider themselves indebted to those who bestowed these privileges on them and are not prepared to barter the "national independence" of their country and their "support of the oppressed" in the world for any other dazzling consideration.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's system has been based on the wishes of the people in such a manner that their legitimacy stems from the apex of the pyramid of the "Velayat-e Faqih" [rule by the supreme jurisconsult]. The Velayat has deemed "talks with the United States" as the red line of the Islamic revolution and any deviation from this line is construed as the relinquishing of this legitimacy and a transgression of its boundaries.

4. The extensive presence of the people on Wednesday (the day of the national struggle against the powers of world arrogance) for keeping the hallowed slogan of "Death to America" indicates, first and foremost, the steadfastness of the people in their obeisance to the Velayat-e Faqih in safeguarding their national independence at all costs. Second, it is an appropriate lesson for the simplistic and overawed individuals at home, and third it is a strong backing for the officials of the system to remain steadfast in combating the deceit and plots of the camp of the powers of arrogance.

Official Denies Report on Oil Accord With U.S.

NC2810092794 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Oct 94 pp 1, 14

[TEHRAN TIMES Economic Desk report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—The National Iranian Oil Company [NOIC] yesterday categorically denied a report that Iran reached a preliminary agreement with an American company for the development of an oil field in southern Iran.

Talking to the TEHRAN TIMES, an informed source at the NIOC said, "No such agreement was reached with the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), as was reported by the PETROLEUM ARGUS, a weekly magazine of the petroleum industry. [no closing quotation mark as published]

The English language PETROLEUM ARGUS reported that Iran and ARCO are at a preliminary stage for signing several agreements for the development of oil fields in the southern Iranian continental shelf, including "Balal".

Another source said Iran's Free Trade Zone Secretary, Morteza Alviri, invited the experts to explore the possibility for the development of oil fields in Qeshm Free Trade Zone.

The same source said that a study is being conducted for the cooperation with foreign oil companies for the development of oil fields in the free trade zone.

He said that during the short discussion, Iranian officials said to ARCO officials that Iran is not interested in inviting the investment of foreign firms in upstream industries; rather, they prefer domestic investment in this regard.

Yazdi Condemns French Decision on Students

LD2610165394 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Wednesday condemned the dismissal of girl students wearing headscarves from French schools.

"Despite claims that France is the cradle of democracy, the world has come to realize that the French education minister has prohibited Muslim school girls and female college students from wearing headscarves," the ayatollah said in a statement. He also deplored the dismissal of nine Muslim school girls from a school in France for refusing to attend school without wearing headscarves.

The judiciary head also lauded the ruling of a French judge rejecting the dismissal of school girls wearing headscarves from French schools.

"We hope that the Paris government would respect the freedom of millions of Muslims living in that country and would make good on such a big mistake particularly when the issue of hunger strike by Muslim girls has been raised," he said.

Condemning both the French education minister and the dean of the French school, the statement warned "the world of Islam will never ignore the violation of Muslims' natural rights by the Paris government."

Further on Yazdi Comments

LD3010143294 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 30 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Head of the judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Sunday [30 October] condemned the French education minister's decision to dismiss nine Muslim female students from colleges and schools for wearing headscarves.

In a statement, Ayatollah Yazdi who is also chairman of the Human Rights Commission, said the dismissal of the French students was in violation of the human rights and the Charter of the United Nations which stipulates the rights of people to practice religious rites.

Confirming the ruling of a French judge condemning the dismissal of the students from French schools and colleges, the ayatollah called on the Paris Government to respect the rights of Muslims living in that country.

The judiciary head stressed that the Muslim world will not ignore the violation of Muslims' rights in France, hoping that the French Government will immediately make good on "this big mistake" which has caused Muslim girls to go on a hunger strike.

Meanwhile, the Women's Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a statement issued here Sunday denounced the recent move by French Government. "This is not the first time that the French Government which claims to be an advocate of democracy and human rights, has taken such an illegal action by depriving a group of Muslim students wearing headscarves of their education," the statement said.

It said "it is surprising that the French Ministry of Education has ignored the ruling of a French court and has taken such an anti- human rights move despite the convention on the ban of discrimination against women."

Iranian women while condemning the move will stage a rally on October 31 to show their solidarity with female Muslim students in France.

Women Demonstrate at French Embassy

LD3110160894 Paris LCI Television in French 1500 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been an anti-French demonstration in Iran. More than 1,000 women wearing the Islamic veil gathered outside the French Embassy in Tehran in support of schoolgirls who wear the Islamic veil.

It must be pointed out that the trial of the killers of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiyar is to start in two days. This trial entails high risks and the police are on the alert. Patrols have been reinforced near tourist attractions and department stores.

'Foreign Women' Express Support

LD3110143394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Two foreign women seminarians studying in Qom, who took part in a gathering of Muslim women in front of the French Embassy in Tehran, read messages of support, in English and Urdu, for expelled students in France. The messages state: How can the West, which purports to be the defender of human rights and which claims to implement laws and regulations to this end, oppose the education of a handful of students who are only following their religion and their God?

The seminarian sisters expressed their revulsion and rage in the messages and condemned the action taken by the French Government and that country's education minister in banning the education of Muslim students wearing the Islamic hejab [Islamic dress] and in expelling them from schools in that country.

Debate Over Islamic Dress Addressed

NC0411081594 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Oct 94 p 20

[Political commentary: "France—Islamic Attire and Our Obligation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. There is no doubt that the Islamic movement in Iran, which culminated in the victory of the Islamic revolution, generated Islamic movements in various places. Even though this movement continues with varying degrees of intensity in various places, it encounters a uniform response; that is, the use of every kind of instrument to limit or crush Islamic movements.

This proliferation of the Islamic movements has motivated politicians in various countries to become sensitive to even the slightest manifestation of Islam in their respective countries and to take a stance against it.

An example can be seen in France with the clamor over the action of some officials in Paris on the hejab [Islamic attire]. French politicians who at one time peddled the concept of civic freedom were forced to intervene in the hejab issue in French schools and to act against it, which was an overt example of a blatant flouting of human rights.

It is the spread of the use of Islamic apparel in French schools, which is directly linked with the growth of Islam in France, that has incited the French echelons to display a defensive reaction and forced them to take every step to suppress the popularizing of the hejab in their country.

This erroneous approach by the French authorities to the use of the Islamic hejab in schools is evident in their seeking to suppress the issue—a corollary of the depth of the people's beliefs—with every political instrument possible.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran has incorporated among the principles of its revolution the support of oppressed Muslims everywhere, which it has proved, not through mere slogans, but by action too. If we are being subjected to international pressure it is because we have no qualms about implementing the principles of our revolution.

The issue of the hejab in France should not be considered a domestic issue in that country. It appears that we should do something in support of our sisters who have chosen to adhere to the hejab in the quagmire of Western society and who say "no" to every threat. This is the obligation of the country that is the cradle of the Islamic world. Lax political behavior should not deter us from carrying out our obligations.

Our ministries should, as in the past, realize the sensitivities of our revolution and display a timely reaction toward them. This does not come outside the framework of the policies of the Islamic revolution and should be kept in mind.

Organizers of Casablanca Conference Criticized

LD0211171494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry has protested to the organizers of the Casablanca conference and has condemned the biased remarks made by the Zionist regime's prime minister, who insulted the sacred nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The spokesman termed Rabin a mysterious international terrorist and criticized the Moroccan officials for allowing such a despised character to insult an Islamic country in the presence of the Muslim nation of Morocco.

He said: The thoughts of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, moved toward the rejuvenation of the Islamic way of thinking and gave more strength to world Muslims. Therefore, Islamic countries should not act so weakly as to allow the representative of a tyrannical usurper regime, which has violated the material and spiritual rights of Muslims in Jerusalem and has committed numerous crimes against Muslims, to use the territory of one Muslim country to insult another Islamic nation.

Furthermore, the spokesman sees the Casablanca conference as a forum for compromise between the heads of Arab states and the enemies of the Muslim people of Palestine and the Islamic nations of the region.

He added: Before making sure of its admission into Islamic societies, the Zionist regime wants to direct the leaders of these countries toward a certain mode of thinking.

Paper Assails Ministry's 'Silence and Inaction'

LD0211134494 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—A Persian daily on Wednesday [2 November] criticized the Foreign Ministry for being silent towards regional issues particularly when the region was passing through a critical juncture.

"Developments in the Middle East are so vital for the U.S. that it, in addition to despatching several low and high-ranking officials to the region, arranged the visit to several Arab countries and the occupied Palestine by (President) Clinton," "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" said. "What is going on in the region nowadays is in fact declaration of war against Islam by the international Zionism and criminal U.S.," the daily said.

Referring to the recently concluded meeting in Casablanca, Morocco, the daily said the Casablanca conference in which the westerners were actively involved was one of the most dangerous gathering aimed at selling out dignity, honor, independence and assets of Arab countries to the Zionist regime.

"There are so many conspiratory moves around us and at the heart of the Islamic world, and the Foreign Ministry of the sole revolutionary country which is the base of universal islamic movement is watching these incidents in silence," it added.

Right when Morocco and Tunisia established diplomatic ties with the Zionist regime, an Iranian Foreign Ministry official visited those two countries and exchanged greetings with their authorities, it said. The same Foreign Ministry official also travelled to Cairo just when Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was busy brokering a compromise deal between Israel and King Husayn of Jordan, the daily said.

"When the news of lifting of Arab oil embargo against Israel was released, the Iranian Foreign Ministry showed a weak reaction after a week delay," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said. The Foreign Ministry did not even bother to show any reaction when U.S. President Bill Clinton came to the region to witness the signing of peace accord between King Husayn and Israel, it said.

"The reality is that our Foreign Ministry through such silence and inaction is pursuing a policy which by no means suits the foreign ministry of a revolutionary country," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said. The foreign ministry of a country which is the base of universal Islamic movement is expected to make its presence felt in all developments which are related to the world of Islam, the daily concluded.

President Meets Kuwaiti Envoy, Opposes Gulf Troops

LD0211123194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz Duwaykh, Kuwait's new ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, was received this morning by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to present his letter of credentials.

At the meeting, the president considered the developments and military deployment in the Persian Gulf and the continued presence of the foreign forces in the region to be against the interests of the countries in the region. He added: The enemies of friendship and solidarity among the Islamic countries pursue their colonialist and sinister goals to justify their unlawful military presence in the region and to sell military armaments and equipment to countries by creating fear and by depicting the Islamic Republic of Iran as the enemy of the Persian Gulf littoral states.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to Iran's principled stance toward regional developments and emphasized that the only fundamental and lasting way to protect and strengthen peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region is through cooperation and friendship among the countries in this region. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a powerful and vast country in the region, invites all the Persian Gulf littoral states to be far-sighted and to have friendship, unity, and common exchanges of views on regional issues on the basis of its principled and humanitarian policy, which is driven from Islam's lofty instructions.

Kuwait's new ambassador conveyed the best greetings of that country's amir to our country's president. He said: The Islamic tie and good-neighborliness between Iran and Kuwait are historic. Kuwait is interested in expanding and deepening relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the political, economic, commercial, and cultural fields.

The Kuwaiti ambassador informed the president about the appreciation and gratitude of Kuwait's people and Government for the humane and principled stance taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of Iraqi aggression against that country, and also the warm welcome given by the Iranian people to the Kuwaiti refugees during that difficult period. He said: Cooperation and friendship between the countries in the region and the Islamic Republic of Iran are in the interest of all the countries in the region.

Paper Examines NATO Plans Against Islam

LD2810202094 Tehran IRNA in English 1911 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Oct. 28, IRNA—Defence ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in their recent meeting in Spain agreed on the text of a plan to confront the Islamic movement in the Middle East, Egyptian Islamic paper AL-SHA'B Friday [28 October] reported.

The text, said the bi-weekly paper, consists of several clauses which stress that the Islamic movement endangers the security of NATO states and that the alliance must coordinate efforts with "moderate" regimes in the region to confront Islamic groups.

The plan envisages that NATO should have the possibility of direct military intervention with the cooperation of the regimes if there was a threat by Islamic groups to take power. The other points of the plan as reported by the daily are:

—to promote security cooperation with the regimes and exchange of information on members of the Islamic movement.

—to take military action against those states supporting the Islamic movement and direct military intervention against it if the country attempts to harm the strategic interests of NATO in the Middle East.

—to improve coopertion between the regimes and the intellignece services of NATO to confront the Islamic movement.

Zionist Regime's 'Reliance' on Terrorism Cited

LD2310173394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1556 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A few Western military experts who recently returned from Tel Aviv revealed that the Zionist regime's training camps for terrorists are still active. They said the people who have been trained in those camps have taken part in hundreds of terrorist and inhuman acts throughout the world during the past three decades, according to plans drawn up by the Zionist regime.

The military experts, who traveled to Tel Aviv earlier this month on an invitation extended by Israeli military advisors to several European countries, described the main purpose of their visit as talks with Mosad, the Zionist regime's espionage and terrorist organization.

According to political analysts, the Zionist regime's excessive reliance on terrorist and inhuman acts is based on several reasons. First, the regime itself is a product of terrorism and it cannot survive other than by means of such acts.

The Zionist regime, which did not exist prior to the Second World War, was able to impose itself on the region through persistent acts of terrorism. That regime's behavior in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon toward the people of those regions exposed it more than ever before as the master of state terrorism. The military invasion of Lebanon in 1982-83, kidnapping and assassinating Palestinian and Lebanese strugglers, supporting the mercenaries in southern Lebanon in their suppression of the people of that country, supporting the Phalangists and the mass killing of innocent people from [?Deyr Yasin] to al-Khalil all testify to this fact.

Now, too, while the Zionist regime is chanting slogans of peace and compromise, on the one hand, it has increased its inhuman operations more than ever before, on the other. During the recent shelling carried out by the Zionist regime, the position of UN forces in Lebanon was also hit. The commander of these forces consequently asked the UN secretary general to protest to the Zionist regime about the use of antipersonnel bullets.

On the other hand, the Zionist regime has consistently tried to crush any action taking place anywhere in the world which it sees as being contrary to its interests. Alongside repression, that regime has tried to penetrate the news media of various countries and use them to its own ends by paying bribes. A Turkish journalist recently revealed in this connection that the Zionist regime pays thousands of dollars in bribes to some Turkish journalists each year so they write their news reports in accordance with the wishes of the Zionist regime.

According to political observers, although that regime has succeeded so far in prolonging its existence by resorting to inhuman acts in occupied territories and by presenting itself as the wronged party in international circles, the increasing revelations about the true nature of the Zionists will create a new arena in which Palestinian strugglers can carry out their legitimate defense, which is described by the Zionists as terrorism.

Possibility of Hamas-Israeli 'Compromise' Viewed

NC2810212994 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Oct 94 p 12

[Commentary by Hasan Fathi: "Hamas: Compromise or Realism?!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Middle East is awaiting the commencement of U.S. President Clinton's visit so that once again it will witness the signing of a new peace treaty between one regional Arab country and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Clinton's visit is beginning in the midst of conflicting reports from the occupied Palestinian territories.

On the one hand reports indicate that during a secret meeting between the Israeli cabinet and the heads of Mosad, Shabak, and the military intelligence, decisions were made on hunting down and assassinating Hamas leaders. In relation to this, the Israeli housing minister explicitly stated that Israel is to start a long-term war against the Islamic Resistance Movement and is to adopt a specific stance on the issue. On the other hand, Israel's deputy foreign minister accepts the possibility of negotiations with Hamas and says that if Hamas wants to establish calm and to talk, Israel will not object.

Meanwhile, some Hamas leaders have also spoken about compromise and peace and have called for understanding with Israel.

Although it is still too soon to speak about a compromise between Israel and Hamas, in view of the process that has been started it seems that hands are at work to thaw Israeli-Hamas relations and to create new conditions.

Under the current circumstances, Israel and Hamas are facing new realities. Israel has realized the fact that without an agreement with Hamas, it will be unable to establish tranquility in the occupied territories. Previously, Israel thought that by reaching a compromise with the PLO and signing an agreement with 'Arafat, it could harness and crush Hamas. But incidents showed that this was an immature and unrealistic idea since, despite the 'Arafat-Rabin accord, conflicts continued and intensified, so much so that the situation in the occupied territories exacerbated even more.

At the current juncture, the two sides have realized that they cannot achieve their objectives through war. This is why the circumstances now are the best for reconciliation and understanding.

Hamas has stated some conditions for compromise with the Zionists. These conditions include the release of the Hamas leaders from jail. In return, Israel also has some expectations from Hamas that should be realized.

Under these circumstances, those who are mediating and are trying to achieve a rapprochement between the two sides should make more efforts.

The current condition in the region is that everyone has extended an arm for peace and reconciliation, so much so that the process of peace has extended from Egypt and Jordan to the Persian Gulf and the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Syria also will join the process soon. Therefore, once this process expands, the situation also will change. If Hamas is currently speaking of peace and reconciliation or if Israel is welcoming a compromise with Hamas, it is because of the prevailing conditions. But we should wait to see if there are any changes in stances, changes that will play a considerable role in charting the course of new developments in the Middle East.

UK 'Interference' in UAE Dispute Assessed

LD2810171994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 28 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a recent uncalculated measure, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd supported the idea that the Iran-UAE dispute be referred to The Hague Court. Following those remarks, our country's Foreign Ministry summoned the British charge d'affaires to Tehran and conveyed Iran's formal protest to the position adopted by London. Mr. Ruyvaran, a Middle East expert at the News Research and Commentary Section of Iranian Radio and TV, assesses the issue:

[Begin Ruyvaran recording] There is no doubt that the British foreign secretary's remarks concerning the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf are tantamount to a kind of interference in the internal affairs of Iran and the region. It is the duty of the Persian Gulf littoral states to prevent any kind of spiteful interference in the internal affairs of the region if they want to keep the region clear of any tension. That is particularly so in the case of Britain, which has had a hand in many of the region's past and present problems.

Britain dominated the Persian Gulf region during its colonial past, and to protect its interests as a plunderer it divided the region's oilfields and created small states throughout the region.

Unfortunately, London created ambiguous borders and neutral zones at the borders of those newly established states to extend its illegitimate interests by creating discord, division, and dissent among those states, and to prolong the political dependency of the region on Britain.

We can describe the oil war and the Iraq-Kuwait dispute as one of the most significant consequences of that British satanic policy. Of course, there are other border disputes—for example, between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, and Qatar and Saudi Arabia—which also stem from the same policies. This situation is unfortunately also true in the case of the Iranian islands of the Persian Gulf. The islands of Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa were part of the indisputable sovereignty of Iran when many of the present shaykhdoms did not exist. But as a result of bullying, the islands were occupied by Britain. When Britain withdrew its military forces from east of the Suez Canal at the beginning of the 1970's, the islands once again came under Iranian control.

The lesson here is that, remembering the past destructive role played by Britain in the Persian Gulf region, the regional states should not allow the old colonialist to once again interfere in the internal affairs of the region. [end recording]

Velayati Discusses Iran's 'Right' to OPEC Post

LD3110112694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri, Libyan oil and energy minister, today met and conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

At the meeting, Velayati referred to the importance and special circumstances of OPEC, saying: Oil prices continue to be lower than their real rates and it is necessary for OPEC to put all its efforts into raising prices. He noted the Islamic Republic of Iran's active presence in the oil exporting countries organization—OPEC—and said: It is the Islamic Republic's right to take up the post of OPEC secretary general.

Salim al-Badri emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's important role in OPEC. He said: We will not hesitate but to assist in every way to raise the price of oil and fulfill the role of members.

Official Calls For Closer Ties With Arab World

LD2610223594 Tehran IRNA in English 2114 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Oct. 26, IRNA—For the first time since the establishment of an Islamic state in Iran an Egyptian official newspaper has hosted an article by an Iranian official calling for better understanding and closer ties between Iran and the Arab world.

The full-page article in Arabic titled "Egypt and Iran: Beginning of Dialogue" by Deputy Foreign Minister for Research and Educational Affairs Abbas Maleki, who also heads the Tehran-based Institute for Politial and International Studies, was published in daily AL-AHRAM Wednesday.

Maleki explains that there is a gross misunderstanding and sometimes deliberate misreporting about Iran's foreign policies in the Arab world and Arab media, and he called for a dialogue between Iranian and Arab intellectuals and scholars to remove those misconceptions.

Praising Egypt as the "heart of the Arab world," Maleki noted that the love of prophet Mohammad (Sawa) and his family binds the Muslim societies of Egypt and Iran.

For over two centuries under the Fatimids (907-1171), Egypt was the centre of Ismaili Shiites, and contains the tombs of several descendants of the prophet (Sawa). The Fatimids built Cairo and gave to the world the famous al-Azhar Islamic seminary. It is a tragedy of history, that their vast libraries were burnt by the conquering forces of the Kurdish ruler Salahuddin Ayoubi.

However, centuries after their subjugation by Salahuddin's armies, the Egyptians still revere the Ahl ul-Bait the prophet's household.

The Iranian official, accompanied by a number of academics and scholars, paid a visit to Cairo recently where he discussed various topics and issues with Egyptian writers and scholars.

Maleki criticised some Arab media which with malice portray Islamic Iran as being repsonsible for all the troubles in the Arab world. He underlined that Iran was a normal country like any other state but has an exceptional geographical position bordering some twenty different countries.

The article points out that the attention of Iran's foreign policy, as evident in Bosnia, Kashmir, Tajikistan and elswehre, is directed towards the welfare and interests of the Muslims.

Finally, Maleki proposed a scholarly dialogue between Iranian professors, students and academics and their Arab counterparts, especially Egypt, to eradicate misunderstandings about Iran in the Arab world. Maleki said his institue was ready to host any such scholarly debate and exchange of views.

Commentary Criticizes Saudi Support for MKO

NC2210095794 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Oct 94 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "Saudi Arabia: Support for Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the world of politics, when weak governments face crises such as one of legitimacy, unity, political power, identity, and so on, they try to create new foreign elements to focus the attention of domestic and foreign political circles—at least temporarily—on other issues and thus mitigate the destructive blows inflicted by these crises.

A clear example of this policy, which stems from the weakness of the ruling structure of the bequeathed Saudi monarchy, is now visible. Despite the various domestic crises that are rocking the rotten bases of its political structure, the Saudi regime has risen in support of the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization—MKO]. Now, on the eve of King Fahd's death, the future of Riyadh's political strength is wrapped in a cloud of ambiguity. Although the Saudi crown prince was assigned this post from the beginning, the future king of Saudi Arabia will not only face numerous opposition forces stemming from the power struggle at home but is only one year younger than King Fahd, and thus death will continue to cast its shadow on the Saudi court.

On the other hand, while the world of politics is being affected more and more by people's political rights, such as the right to vote and to participate in politics, the legality of absolute rule in the Arabian peninsula is in question. Within this context, there are some doubts about how genuine the support for legitimate rights is in movements like the committee defending human rights. Meanwhile, the potential for an uprising in Saudi society is strong and has weakened the structure of the bequeathed rule in that country. The purchase of millions of dollars of antiriot equipment by Saudi security officials from Italy is proof of this.

On the foreign policy scene, too, the failure of support for the illegitimate Yemeni Government headed by al-Bid, who was defeated two months ago by government forces, has rendered Riyadh's plans futile. Also, the revelation of the Saudi Government's behind-the-scenes policy of tacit and then overt support for the Arab-Israeli compromise process inflicted a major blow on Saudi politicians. And finally, Riyadh's main role in playing down the sanctions against the regime occupying Jerusalem, which were in force since 1974, have added to Saudi foreign policy defeats.

Now that Riyadh sees itself facing crises such as these, it is moving toward yet another defeat in its foreign policy and is supporting a terrorist group, the terrorist nature of which is not denied even by its mentors in the West. Such a spiteful stance by Riyadh can only make the political face of the Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia even more sinister.

Undoubtedly, the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry will not let such wretched stances by the Saudi Government go unanswered.

Paper Comments on Significance of New Pipeline

LD2610125094 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—A pipeline carrying Turkmenistan gas and oil to Europe is to go on stream Wednesday [26 October] at the presence of three heads of state in Ashgabat, reported the English-language daily "TEHRAN TIMES".

Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is scheduled to fly to Ashgabat today where he will join Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as well as President Sapar Murat Niyazov of Turkmenistan.

Quoting an observer, the paper said that, the Turkmenistan pipeline which will reach Europe via Iran indicates the faith of the neighboring Central Asian republics in the Islamic Republic.

"They can rely on Tehran for the economic development of these newly-independent states which are mostly landlocked," said the observer. He reminded that despite pressures by the west particularly by the United States on other nations to prevent them from having economic relations with Iran, several Central Asian republics have approached Tehran for closer ties.

The pipeline is the first step towards unlimited cooperation between Iran and the neighboring Central Asian republics, he said.

"The Central Asian republics and other countries such as India, Malaysia, and Indonesia are closely engaged in negotiations with Iran and the Central Asian republics for the safe passage through air, rail and road facilities, for export and import of their goods," concluded the paper.

Benefits of Gas Pipeline Lauded

LD2610142994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1105 GMT 26 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani will arrive in Ashgabat today for a short visit to Turkmenistan to take part in that country's Independence Day ceremony and in the inauguration of the Turkmen section of the gas pipeline. The leaders of Turkey and Pakistan, the other founding members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, will also take part in the ceremony.

This is the second visit to Turkmenistan by the Islamic Republic of Iran's president. About the same time last year, our president made a three-day visit to Turkmenistan, accompanied by a high-ranking delegation of economical and political officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran, as part of a tour of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Regional observers saw that visit as a turning point in relations between Iran and Turkmenistan.

During the five-day visit to Tehran by Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov, which took place in the month of Dey last year [month beginning 22 December 1993] in return for our president's trip [to Turkmenistan], the two sides followed up the initial agreements reached in previous talks and further consolidated their relations.

The process of advancing the Islamic Republic of Iran's ties with Turkmenistan. in particular, and with all the Central Asian countries in general, turned the corner with the signing of an agreement for the transfer of Turkmen gas to Europe through Iran, because the agreement forms the cornerstone for very extensive cooperation in a whole range of economic, political, cultural, and scientific fields and can serve as a model for good relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and all the countries of the region.

On the basis of the agreement to transfer Turkmen gas through Iran to Europe, it is foreseen that in the final phase of the project about 30 billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas a year will be transferred to Europe through Turkey after crossing Iranian territory. This project, the Iranian part of which was opened in Tehran in the presence of the presidents of Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, will have its inauguration on Turkmen territory today and tomorrow. Apart from the two countries' presidents, the leaders of Turkey and Pakistan may also take part in the ceremony.

The economic importance of the project may be seen in the fact that it will not only bring substantial revenue to Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, but will also benefit Turkey and all the European countries that lie along its route. This project can, therefore, serve as a model for multilateral international or even intercontinental cooperation, which fulfills the interests of all the countries concerned. This, together with the fact that the presence of the gas pipeline through Iranian territory is incontrovertible proof of Iran's stability and undeniable strategic importance in regional equations, caused the United States and a number of that country's European allies to embark on negative propaganda and on efforts to prevent this international project.

Now, with the inauguration of another part of this project, it has become clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as an axis of stability, security, and mutual cooperation, can play a basic role with its solid weight in advancing regional cooperation and in preventing the destructive interventions of foreign powers.

The support of ECO member countries for this project, which will be the means for the expansion of cooperation in the future, can lend new dimensions to the many-sided regional cooperation.

IRNA To Assume OANA Chairmanship in 1997

LD3110095294 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, Oct. 31, IRNA—The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) is to take over chairmanship of the Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) as of 1997 for three years, said IRNA Managing Director Fereydun Verdinezhad here Sunday [30 October]. Verdinezhad who is also the chairman of the non-aligned news agencies pool stressed that one of the major goals of IRNA is to give overall and suitable coverage to developments while giving priority to the Muslim and neighboring countries.

Speaking at a press conference here, Verdinezhad said that IRNA has 32 offices in various parts of the world which would also cover developments in the nearby major cities through stringers. He noted that the Zionist-backed news agencies through their mass news production were attempting to disappoint people in the country adding that it was the prime duty of the media to foil such conspiracies in a news confrontation in all political, economic and cultural dimensions.

He stressed that despite access of such news agencies to modern equipment for news dissemination, reports transmitted by them were deprived of any message. He assured that by upgrading the news transmission facilities, IRNA could thwart conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Tourist Visas Available to All Muslims

LD3110114994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muslims everywhere in the world who are interested in visiting Iran can now obtain tourist visas to enter the country. The deputy minister in charge of tourism and pilgrimage affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance told correspondents today: In the past, visas were given only to Muslims from Islamic countries. But now Muslims in any country in the five continents of the world will be given tourist visas within 24 hours of requesting them from Islamic Republic of Iran embassies. These visas will be valid for one month and are renewable. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Police Fire on 'Unruly Crowd,' Kill Activist

BK0411020294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 3 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Nov 3 (AFP)—A communist party activist was killed and another 13 others injured when police opened fire to control an unruly crowd in Dang district west of here, a Home Ministry spokesman said Thursday [3 November].

The spokesman said the incident took place in Bijauri constituency, in Dang district, 340 km (212 miles) west of here when police stopped communist activists from marching towards a meeting of the ruling Nepali Congress.

He added that one police superintendent received head injuries.

Meanwhile, a spokesman from the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist alleged that the police opened fire on the orders of the minister for public works and transportation, Khum Bahadur Khadka.

The allegatifuted by the Home Ministry.

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